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Iraq

A UN weapons inspection team arrived in Baghdad to verify Iraq's pledge to eliminate its ballistic missiles, AFP reported. The team will work with Iraqi authorities on the verification process and will "commence destruction of equipment associated with Iraq's ballistic missile program," the agency added.

Libya

The government has agreed "in principle" to hand over two suspects linked to the Lockerbie and UTA cases, according to diplomatic sources cited by Algiers radio. In a related development, the external liaison minister said his government will accept "any verdict" by the International Court of Justice, which will hear the charges against Libya on 26 March, MENA noted.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League foreign ministers who met to discuss U.S. and Western allegations against Libya in the Lockerbie affair agreed to exert their "good offices" to resolve the dispute peacefully. In the text of a resolution issued at the end of their emergency session, broadcast by Tripoli's international service, the foreign ministers asked the UN Security not to adopt any economic, military or diplomatic measures that would complicate the issue pending a hearing at the International Court of Justice.

Egypt

President Mubarak's envoy has told Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi that Cairo will refuse to abide by any sanctions that may be imposed on Libya by the UN Security Council, including an air and military embargo, Paris Radio Monte Carlo disclosed.

Iran

During his second Friday prayers sermon, Ayatollah 'Ali Akbar Meshkini saluted the "gentleman" responsible for the bombing of the Israeli Embassy in Argentina, adding that "there are times when one person becomes a source of pride to an entire nation," Tehran TV reported.

Algeria

The government is deploying special forces near "strategic locations" and public buildings following a declaration by the Islamic Salvation Front, FIS, that it will wage a "holy war," Kuwait radio revealed. Meanwhile, Interior Minister Larbi Belhkeir told ROSE AL-YUSUF that democracy in Algeria is "irreversible" and that police have been tasked with wiping out "all networks of terrorism and violence," Algiers radio reported.

Palestinian Affairs

The Palestinian delegation will withdraw from peace negotiations with Israel if the United States "retreats" from its position and agrees to provide Israel with the $10 billion in loan guarantees it has requested, Fatah's Nabil Sha'th asserted in a statement reported by Algiers radio. In another development, the PLO has agreed to attend a joint Syrian-Lebanese-Jordanian-Palestinian meeting in Beirut to coordinate Arab positions on the peace process, the radio noted separately.

Israel

It was a "mistake" to terminate the Lavi project, Defense Minister Moshe Arens asserted in comments following his visit to the United States. Arens said reports that Israel sold Patriot missiles to China could undermine Israel's defense industries, Tel Aviv radio reported. Meanwhile, a U.S. inspection team arrived in Tel Aviv to probe those allegations, Jerusalem TV noted.

Afghanistan

The strategic city of Mazar-e Sharif was said to be in rebel hands as a result of an alliance between mojahedin and ethnic militia commanders opposed to Najibollah's regime, AFP reported. In a related development, the deputy defense minister was said to be in hiding at loyalist barracks near Mazar-e Sharif and "fighting for his own safety," the press agency added.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Emergency Session Meets on Libya

Meeting Opens 22 Mar

NC2203115392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1122 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, 22 Mar (MENA)—The emergency meeting of the Arab League Council began at the General Secretariat Headquarters this afternoon at the foreign ministers level. The foreign ministers of Jordan, Tunisia, Algeria, Djibouti, Syria, Iraq, Libya, Egypt, Morocco, Mauritania, Sudan, and Palestine participated in the meeting. Saudi Minister of State Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud and Ibrahim al-Mursi, director of Arab homeland affairs at the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry, also participated in the meeting. The other Arab countries were represented by their permanent envoys to the Arab League.

The Arab League Council will discuss the threats to which Libya is being subjected in light of the draft resolution submitted to the Security Council, which calls for imposing sanctions against Libya, and the adoption of a unified Arab stand on these threats.

Draft Resolution Detailed

NC2203131092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1202 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, 22 Mar (MENA)—MENA has learned that the draft resolution submitted to the emergency Arab League Council meeting currently being held in Cairo rejects all economic, military, and diplomatic measures that might be taken against Libya because they could harm regional security and stability and could cause economic and political complications for Arab countries.

The draft resolution calls for freedom of air traffic and transport and the movement of merchandise between the Libyan Jamahiriyah and Arab countries.

It calls for measures to be taken to help the Libyan Jamahiriyah cope with any economic or trade sanctions and any air or sea blockade.

The draft resolution calls for the Arab League Council to reiterate its support of and solidarity with Libya against all threats and military measures which might be imposed on it and to give it moral and material support.

It calls on the UN Security Council to resolve the dispute between Libya and the United States, the United Kingdom, and France through negotiations, mediation, and a legal settlement according to Clause 33 of Chapter 6 of the UN Charter.

The draft resolution calls for the Libyan Jamahiriyah's request, presented from [preceding word as received] the International Court of Justice in the Hague on 3 March, to be considered.

The draft welcomes Libya's announcement that it denounces all forms of terror and is willing to cooperate with any international effort to eliminate this phenomenon, which jeopardizes world peace and stability.

It calls on the Arab League secretary general to follow up the resolution and for the Arab League Council to consider itself in permanent session.

More on Draft Resolution

JN2203124692 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] The Arab League Council held an emergency session in Cairo this morning. Fourteen foreign ministers attended, while the foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] member states failed to attend. The GCC member states were represented by low-level officials at the meeting.

It has been learned that the resolution drafted by Libya to be submitted to the closed session which began this morning reiterates the Arab states' support for Libya against the threats directed against it. The draft resolution also stresses the Arab states' rejection of any economic or military measures that might be taken against Libya due to the negative impact of such measures on regional security and stability. Furthermore, the Libyan draft resolution affirms support for Libya's declared and unequivocal condemnation of terrorism and also for the readiness it demonstrated for cooperation with any international endeavor to exterminate this phenomenon. Likewise, the draft resolution renews the call for the Security Council to resolve the dispute through negotiations and judicial settlement in accordance with the provisions enshrined in Article 33 of Chapter 6 of the UN Charter.

Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid delivered a speech before the conferees at noon today, urging the League Council to reaffirm its solidarity with Libya and show extreme concern for tackling this crisis in accordance with the rules of international law. He also asked everyone to exercise self-restraint and not to hasten to take measures that could expose the Arab region to further tension.

'Abd-al-Majid, Libyan Delegate Speak

NC2203133092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1145 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, 22 Mar (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has called for the emergency meeting of the Arab League Council to reach a resolution that reasserts the Arab countries' solidarity with fraternal Libya regarding the U.S. and British accusations that two Libyan nationals blew up a civilian U.S. airliner. He has called for this in light of the serious escalation of tension which has developed in the situation and the new draft resolution that will be submitted

to the Security Council in the next few hours on imposing sanctions against Libya.

This came in a speech Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid delivered at the outset of the emergency meeting of the Arab League Council. He stressed that the Arab countries are concerned about addressing the crisis between Libya and the United States, Britain, and France in accordance with international law and the provisions of international and Arab legitimacies. He said: We hope that all parties will exercise self-restraint and not rush to take measures that could subject our region to further tension. This is because we now are in dire need of stability and must avoid anything that may threaten peace in a region that God chose to be the cradle of heavenly religions and the land of peace.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that when Libya declared its concern over resolving this crisis, it accepted resorting to the rules of law, wisdom, and justice through recourse to neutral international investigating committees or to the International Court of Justice. He said that this did indeed take place and the first session of the International Court of Justice was set to convene in the Hague on Thursday [26 March] to consider this case. He added: Libya has declared on every occasion its intense interest in adhering to the rules of international law, ensuring stability in international relations, and renouncing all methods of force or threats to use it. Libya also condemned individual and organized terrorism and illegal actions that target innocent citizens. Furthermore, he said, Libya demonstrated its readiness for full cooperation by providing all facilities and necessary guarantees to arrive at the truth. He pointed out that the Arab League Council is holding its emergency meeting today to discuss the serious worsening of the situation, which has developed in light of the new draft resolutions that will be submitted to the Security Council in the next few hours to impose sanctions against Libya.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid pointed out that the Arab League Council debated this crisis in two emergency sessions on 5 December and 16 January. It passed resolutions which praised Libya's stand and its response to uncovering the facts on the one hand and its concern to contain the crisis on the other. He noted that these resolutions stressed the Arab League Council's solidarity with fraternal Libya.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid called for coordinating the Arab League's efforts with the United Nations to study the documents related to the issue. He stressed the need for cooperation between the parties concerned to reveal the truth and resolve the dispute through negotiations, mediation efforts, and a legal settlement based on the principles and provisions of the Charters of the Arab League and the United Nations, which provide for resolving disputes through peaceful means.

'Abd-al-Salam al-Turayki, Libya's permanent representative to the Arab League, spoke, asserting that despite his country's cooperation and its proposals, which were reflected by the reports submitted by the UN and Arab League Secretaries General, the three Western countries disregarded all this and continued making threats, utilizing all possible means including the UN Security Council.

Al-Turayki added that Libya is certain its citizens are innocent and that the issue is a "political" one, designed to undermine security and order in the Libyan Jamahiriyah and wreck its national system. He added that the issue also targets the Arab nation.

The Libyan representative continued: Based on our concern for resolving all disputes peacefully, we have cooperated with all the brothers and international organizations. We expressed willingness to resolve the dispute through negotiations and sought recourse in the International Court of Justice. We also said we were willing to allow U.S. judges to participate in the investigations carried out by a Libyan judge. The U.S. Administration refused.

'Abd-al-Salam al-Turayki added that Libya was ready to cooperate with the UN Security Council resolution and submitted positive proposals to the UN secretary general's representative. He declared: We said we were willing to resolve the crisis according to international legitimacy and national sovereignty.

Al-Turayki said that to use the Security Council and Chapter VII of the UN Charter in this manner represents a "serious precedent" in international relations.

He asked why the Charter's Seventh Chapter was not applied against Israel, which practices all forms of terrorism against the Palestinian people.

The Libyan representative pointed out that his country submitted a draft resolution to the Arab League Council, one which meets the Arab position's minimum requirements. He added that through this resolution, the Arab nation will appeal to the three Western countries to seek recourse in international law.

After the Libyan representative delivered his speech the open session was adjourned. Meetings will resume in a closed session.

Ibrahim al-Bishari, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation, launched today's open session. Libya is the chairman of the current session, the 99th, of the Arab League Council.

First Closed Session Concludes

NC2203154392 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Text] The Arab League Council has ended its first closed session, which was held on the foreign minister level to discuss adopting an Arab stand on the Libyan crisis. The Council is due to resume its meetings at 2030 [1830 GMT] this evening to announce its final decision on the Libyan crisis.

Ibrahim al-Bishari, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation, made a statement to reporters following the first closed session. He said Libya will accept any verdict issued by the International Court of Justice [ICJ], which will discuss the Libyan complaint regarding the accusation that it downed U.S. and French airliners. He added that today's meeting was devoted to discussing the threats to Libya by some Western countries and the plans to impose sanctions on it.

Describing the discussions as positive and constructive, al- Bishari declared that the Arab countries have shown serious support for the Libyan stance and asserted the need to contain the crisis and find a peaceful end to it.

He noted an Arab League inclination to ask the UN Security Council to wait before issuing a resolution imposing sanctions until the ICJ rules on the matter.

Al-Bishari added that the Arab countries and the Arab League secretary general will form a ministerial committee to follow up developments and contact the concerned parties until the dispute is resolved.

Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid also made a statement to reporters, asserting that the discussions among the foreign ministers today were constructive.

He said: We sought to contain the crisis, prevent further exacerbation of it, and find a peaceful solution.

'Abd-al-Majid praised Libya's flexibility on the crisis, its acceptance of the principle of international arbitration, and its refusal to clash with the United Nations.

'Differences' Preclude Final Session

JN2203202992 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo carried within the "Panorama" program]

[Text] As of 2145 Cairo time, the Arab League Council was not able to hold its final session, which was scheduled to be held at 2000 today to reach an agreement on the draft resolution concerning solidarity with Libya. The reason, according to Arab League sources, is due to differences in opinion among the participating states, where the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states asked to refer to their governments to discuss the proposed draft resolution. They also demanded the issuance of a draft statement only without issuing a binding resolution by the Arab League. These states have also refused to join the working committee, which was entrusted by the Arab League with preparing the draft resolution.

While it was reported that Morocco had reservations about the draft resolution, sources stressed that Cairo fully supports the Libyan viewpoint on the draft resolution.

Libya had earlier proposed to the Arab League Council a draft resolution on full solidarity with it in its confrontation of any Western threats. It has also called on the Arab League Council to call on the UN Security Council to settle the crisis through peaceful and legal means, and to reject any resolutions that could be issued by the UN Security Council regarding a boycott of Libya.

Late Closed Session Held

NC2203210792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2056 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, 22 Mar (MENA)—The Arab League Council began a closed session this evening of the heads of the delegations. During this meeting, an exchange of views will take place about the U.S.- British-Libyan crisis in order to formulate a stand and agree on the final formula of the draft resolution that the Arab League Council's emergency session will issue.

'Text' of Resolution

LD2303010392 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Resolution issued by the Arab League Council emergency session in Cairo on 22 March; first paragraph is announcer's introduction—announcer-read]

[Text] At the conclusion of its emergency meeting that began in Cairo yesterday, Sunday morning, the Arab League Council issued a resolution which embodies the unprecedented solidarity of the Arab nation, and took one collective position on the side of the Arab Libyan people which affirms the full Arab exoneration of the Great Jamahiriyah on the question of terrorism. The resolution of the Arab League has strengthened the steadfast Arab Libyan position which, by its firmness based on right and justice, has been able to wrench support and bolstering at the pan-Arab, Islamic, and international level. Here is the text of the resolution issued by the Arab league Council tonight:

The Arab League Council, which convened in an open emergency session on 22 March 1992 in accordance with the charter of the League of Arab States, and the conventions and treaties emanating from it and completing it, while referring to its Resolutions 5156, issued on 5 December 1991, and 5185, issued on 16 January 1992 which both affirmed the standing on the side of and solidarity with Libya in connection with the American, British, and French accusations leveled against it, while taking into consideration the principles of the United Nations and the Arab League concerning the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means in a way that would not lay open the international peace and security to danger, particularly Article 52 of the UN Charter, while welcoming the readiness demonstrated by Libya to cooperate with the UN secretary general concerning the legal aspects of UN Security Council Resolution 731, in a neutral investigation or a neutral or international court, while referring to the request by Libya to the

International Court of Justice on 3 March 1992, after reviewing the latest developments concerning the incidents of the American Pan Am aircraft and the French UTA aircraft, and the continuaton by the United States, the United Kingdom, and France to escalate their campaign against the Libyan Jamahiriyah, decides the following:

—To exercise good offices at all levels to prevent any threats to Libya and to try to solve this problem by peaceful means.

—To affirm its open condemnation of violance in all its forms and to welcome Libya's readiness to cooperate with any international effort to eradicate this phonomenon.

—To renew its invitation to the UN Security Council to solve the conflict through negotiations, mediation, and judicial settlement in accordance with Chapter 6, Article 33 of the UN Charter.

—To urge the UN Security Council to avoid the adoption of any resolution on the taking of economic, military, or diplomatic measures which will increase the complications and negatively influence the region, pending the decision of the International Court of Justice on the case submitted to it on 2 March 1992.

—To set up a follow-up ministerial committee composed of Tunisia, Algeria, Libya, Syria, Egypt, Morocco, Mauritania, and the Arab League secretary general and charge them with making all necessary and urgent contacts with the concerned parties and with the president of the UN Security Council and with the member states of the UN Security Council and with the UN secretary general with the aim of finding a solution to the crisis in accordance with the provisions of the Charter and the principles of international law.

—To consider the Arab League Council in continuous session and to charge the secretary general to follow up the implementation of this resolution and to submit a report to the Council on developments in the situation.

League To Exert 'Good Offices'

NC2303064092 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Excerpts] During its emergency session at foreign minister level, the Arab League Council decided to exert good offices on all levels to avoid the leveling of any threats against Libya and to try to solve the problem peacefully.

Concluding its session last night, the League Council unequivocally denounced all forms of terrorism and welcomed Libya's readiness to cooperate with any international efforts which seek to eliminate terrorism. The Council reiterated its call for the Security Council to resolve the crisis through negotiations, mediation, and judicial settlement according to Article 33 of Chapter 6 of the UN Charter. [passage omitted]

The emergency session's ministerial committee held a lengthy meeting last night at League headquarters in Cairo. Speaking afterward, Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid stated that the committee had discussed possible practical means and solutions to finding a peaceful way out of the U.S.-British-Libyan crisis. The League Council, which concluded its meetings yesterday, had set up a ministerial committee comprising Tunisia, Algeria, Libya, Syria, Egypt, Morocco, Mauritania, and the Arab League secretary general to hold all the necessary and urgent contacts with the parties concerned, the Security Council president, the Security Council members, and the UN secretary general to resolve the crisis according to the UN Charter and international law.

Libya's al-Bishari, 'Abd-al-Majid Comment

NC2303070192 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] Ibrahim al-Bishari, secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation in Libya, has stated that the discussions during the meetings of Arab League foreign ministers were objective, positive, and showed genuine determination to find a peaceful way out of the crisis, preserving Libya's security and safety.

In a joint news conference with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid at League headquarters last night, al-Bishari said that the Arab League Council decision was unanimous. He noted that during their speeches the Arab ministers called on the Security Council not to apply Chapter Seven of the UN Charter and stressed that Libya did not threaten world peace and security, noting that the issue is one of suspicion about two Libyan citizens—which may or may not be true.

Arab League Council Chairman al-Bishari added: We have referred the matter to the International Court of Justice and we are awaiting its verdict. He reiterated that Libya will comply with the verdict, whether or not it is in its favor.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid urged the Security Council's permanent members not to be too hasty to issue a resolution and to show they want to solve the crisis peacefully. He said the Arab League does not seek confrontation but wants a solution which will satisfy all the parties. Dr. 'Abd-Al-Majid described the League Council emergency session's discussions as constructive and as trying to show the Arab League's desire to solve the crisis peacefully. He added that everybody wants to avoid any serious complications regarding Libya.

Concluding the conference, Dr. 'Abd-Al-Majid said the UN secretary general had been given the text of the decision to use as an official UN document.

Syria's al-Shar' Comments, Departs

JN2303063492 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned to Damascus at dawn today after leading the Syrian Arab Republic's delegation to the Arab League Council's extraordinary session, which was convened at the request of the Libyan Jamahiriyah.

Before leaving Cairo airport last night, al-Shar' said he is satisfied with the decision adopted unanimously by the Arab foreign ministers. He pointed out that the decision calls for resolving the dispute between Libya and certain western states through peaceful means and urges the UN Security Council not to base any resolution concerning Libya on Chapter Seven of the UN Charter.

Egypt's 'Amr Musa Comments

NC2303122292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, 23 Mar (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has received a message from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, which Abu-Zayd 'Umar Durdah, secretary of the General People's Committee in Libya (prime minister) [parentheses as received, showing equivalent title], conveyed to President Mubarak in a meeting here today.

The Libyan prime minister stated afterward that the message deals with the charges of suspicion against two Libyan citizens. He said he was satisfied with yesterday's unanimous Arab League Council decision, adding: We hope the Security Council will consider this decision and will not issue resolutions or adopt measures based on Chapter Seven of the UN Charter, which does not apply to this case because Libya never did anything that could be construed as endangering international peace and security or created any aggression.

The Libyan prime minister stated that his country urges the Security Council not to pass resolutions boycotting Libya economically or to take other measures. He called for leaving the International Court of Justice to decide. He asked: If someone is sure of his legal position why can he not wait for the court to decide? If others are politically motivated there is no need to hide behind excuses, be they airline incidents or otherwise, he added.

Foreign Minister Musa stated that the Arab League made clear its position on the Libyan-Western crisis in yesterday's decision, which, he added, rests on two principles: The Arab League Council is backing, not obstructing, international legitimacy, opposing terrorism and all its acts. And it calls on the Security Council to allow some contacts which could be held to implement Security Council Resolution 731 on the crisis, taking into account that the International Court of Justice is examining the case. He pointed out that all this shows there are ongoing efforts to implement Resolution 731 and which consider these factors.

In his statement, Musa said it is unlikely that the UN Security Council will issue a resolution against Libya today. He believes the resolution will be adopted within three or four days.

Responding to a question on the stand Egypt will take on that resolution, Musa said: We will answer that question when the UN Security Council adopts a resolution.

Musa was asked about the party to which the Libyan defendants will be handed over. He said this is Libya's decision, not ours or the Arab League's. He pointed out that the decision to hand over the Libyan defendants is a "Libyan decision," taken within the framework of UN Security Council Resolution 731 with a view to resolving the issue.

Asked about a possible peaceful solution to the problem through a demonstration of flexibility by all parties concerned, he said: There should have been flexibility within the framework I talked about earlier. He pointed out that the desired flexibility is that which safeguards international legitimacy.

The foreign minister expressed the hope that ongoing efforts will produce a positive result that helps to remove the tension surrounding the issue. He explained that President Mubarak's meeting today with Abu-Zayd 'Umar Durdah falls within the context of these efforts.

Asked about efforts to resolve Libya's problem with the West, 'Amr Musa said Egypt and other countries are making efforts and that all these efforts seek to contain the crisis.

The foreign minister expressed hope that these efforts will succeed, noting that contacts are continuing with the United Nations, the Arab League, Libya, and all the parties concerned, although nothing has been achieved yet.

Reportage on Arab League Sideline Meetings, Talks

Musa Meets Libyan, Tunisian, Syrian Ministers

NC2203122892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1124 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, 22 Mar (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa this afternoon met the Libyan, Tunisian, and Syrian foreign ministers separately. During the meetings views were exchanged on addressing the problem of handing over two Libyan nationals accused of blowing up two airliners, one American and one French, in 1988 and 1989. The meetings are part of intensive contacts being held by Egyptian diplomats to solve the Libyan problem. They are important because they took place before the emergency Arab League foreign ministers' meeting began. Libya asked the Arab League to meet to discuss overcoming the Libyan problem and finding acceptable solutions before the Security Council passes its resolution imposing economic sanctions on Libya. The most important idea to be submitted to the Arab

foreign ministers' meeting is that of attempting to introduce intermediary links [Halaqat Wasitah] to overcome the problem.

Tunisia's Ben Ali, Libyan Envoy Meet

LD2203180392 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1615 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Excerpts] Tunis, 22 Mar (JANA)—President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, president of the sisterly Republic of Tunisia, received brother Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi this morning.

During this meeting, the brother major handed a message from the brother leader to President Ben Ali. A brotherly warm and deep discussion took place during this one-hour audience. A number of important issues were discussed in relation to bilateral, Arab Maghreb Union [AMU], and Arab levels. The two parties exchanged views on the coordination of efforts and stances within the AMU regarding the latest international developments. [passage omitted] Maj. al-Humaydi conveyed to the brother president the appreciation of the brother leader of the revolution for the Tunisian people's pioneering role in support of the Libyan people, which reflects the brotherly ties between the two countries. [passage omitted]

'Abd-al-Majid Meets Libya's al-Bishari

LD2203192192 Tripoli JANA in English 1814 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, al-Rabiyah [March] 22 (JANA)— The secretary general of the League of Arab States Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid reiterated the League 's rejection of any coercive measures against the Great Jamahiriyah.

He reasserted the commitment of the League of Arab States to its stance of support for and solidarity with the Great Jamahiriyah in countering the new colonial campaign.

The secretary general made this statement during his meeting with the secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation.

The delegate of the Great Jamahiriyah to the League of Arab States was present at the meeting.

Maghreb Countries To Hold Emergency Summit

LD2203214992 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 2100 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Text] Diplomatic sources in Rabat said tonight that heads of the Arab Maghreb countries will hold an emergency meeting there within the next few days to discuss the latest developments in the Libyan-Western crisis and adopt a unified stance toward them.

Quoting these sources, QNA reported that King Hassan II is holding constant and intensive consultations on such a summit and on preventing the adoption of any economic or military measures against Libya.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO's Qaddumi Says Israel Talks 'Waste of Time'

LD2103183492 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Department, has stated that all the peace negotiations taking place with Israel are a waste of time. He said that Israel's decision to hold general elections on 26 June is an attempt to escape from the negotiations because Israel does not want to have negotiations on matters of substance.

In a press statement, he said that the negotiations between the Palestinians and Israel have not gone beyond Israel's offer of marginal autonomous rule for the Palestinians in the occupied territories and the Palestinians' offer of a plan for establishing a Palestinian state.

He pointed out that Israel will not enter into negotiations on matters of substance unless it is forced to do so. Thus Israel put forward the autonomous rule plan to avoid criticism, but the Palestinians blocked this maneuver by offering their plan for an independent Palestinian state.

Qaddumi said that the Palestinians' participation in the peace process was in response to a historic moment which had to be seized to realize objectives or at least part of these objectives.

He said that the PLO through its political action has succeeded in destroying the political siege that was laid around it. He stated that the United States, which was the sole obstacle in the way of the Palestinian demands, has changed its way of dealing with them and has begun to deal with them at the highest level. Coordination between the Palestinians inside and outside the occupied territories continues apace, thus confirming that the PLO is still the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Fatah Official: Withdrawal If U.S. Grants Loans

LD1803205192 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1602 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Excerpt] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, member of the Fatah Central Committee, has stated that the Palestinians will withdraw from the peace negotiations if the United States retreats and provides Israel with the loans that it has requested to assist its building of new settlements.

In a press statement Sha'th said that the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations have not achieved tangible progress up to the present. He predicted that no progress will be made before the Israeli elections unless the United States continues to employ pressure via the loan guarantees to halt settlements. [passage omitted]

Official Says PLO To Attend Beirut Talks

LD2003185292 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1602 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh has stated that the agreement signed by the Jordanian Government and the PLO prior to the Madrid conference affirmed that the two sides will work to establish a confederation between Jordan and Palestine and the formation of a joint committee to study the basis and broad lines of such a confederation.

In a statement published in yesterday's issue of the Tunisian newspaper AL-SHURUQ, 'Abd-Rabbuh said that an agreement on the confederation provides an opportunity for consolidating Palestinian-Jordanian relations. This does not conflict with the two people's rights of national sovereignty.

He pointed out that the Palestinian Central Council has approved this agreement in line with the resolutions of the Palestine National Council in this regard.

'Abd-Rabbuh reiterated the PLO's welcome of and agreement to attend the Syrian-Lebanese-Jordanian-Palestinian meeting in Beirut after the blessed 'Id al-Fitr. He said that this meeting will be a step toward strengthening coordination between the parties concerned with the peace process. He expressed his wish that other Arab countries will also participate in this meeting to bolster and strengthen the Arab stands on the upcoming bilateral and multilateral talks.

'Abd-Rabbuh affirmed that during the fourth round of talks in Washington the Palestinian delegation to the peace process submitted a document emphasizing that an end to building settlements would help achieve progress in discussing all matters pertaining to the transitional stage, and that without halting settlements no other issues can be discussed. This also applies to the implementation of the Geneva Convention in the occupied territories. He added that the document defined the Palestinian concept of the transitional stage and that it will remain the basis for the Palesinian stand in the peace process in the coming period. There will be no change from the primacy of the settlement issue.

PLO Central Council To Discuss Confederation

JN2203113792 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 22 Mar 92 p 28

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Text] Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC], has announced that the PLO Central Council will convene on 29 March in Tunis.

In an exclusive statement to AL-RA'Y, al-Sa'ih confirmed that he yesterday morning sent out invitations to the 92 members of the Council.

He described this meeting as one of the most important meetings of the PLO Central Council, especially because it is being held on the threshold of the fifth round of negotiations expected at the end of April.

The PNC speaker reiterated that establishing a confederation between the states of Jordan and Palestine will top the agenda of the meeting. This confederation was endorsed by the PNC in a number of its sessions and would be realized through the free and democratic choice of the two peoples.

He explained that assessing the peace process in light of the four rounds of the Middle East peace talks, and supporting the Palestinian intifadah will be at the core of the agenda. Other topics on the agenda are the situation of the Palestinian people in the diaspora and the formation of council permanent committees, which could number up to 20.

He said: Our first and foremost concern is now halting settlements, an Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Palestinians territories—Jerusalem, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip—implementing the Fourth Geneva Convention, and providing international protection for the Palestinian people under the occupation.

'Arafat Adviser on Talks' Agenda

LD2303095592 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Excerpts] Bassam Abu-Sharif, president 'Arafat's personal adviser, discussed relations with Tunisia in an interview published by AL-BAYAN today. He said that Tunisia is struggling at the official and popular levels on the side of the Palestinians to put an end to the occupation of their land and to attain their national independence. [passage omitted]

Mr. Bassam Abu-Sharif announced that the most prominent institutions in the PLO are to hold intensified meetings in the coming days in Tunis and will discuss the issue of establishing a confederation with Jordan. He further said that the Fatah Central Committee will meet during the second half of Ramadan to examine all current developments and the future program of action. The [Fatah] Revolutionary Council will also convene to discuss the same issue. After Ramadan, the Palestinian Central Council will hold a meeting which is expected to give recommendations to the Executive Committee concerning its future program of action.

Abu-Sharif commented on the bilateral negotiations by saying that their results will appear next November. He stated that he expects the Americans and the Russians will put an end to the disagreement over the venue of the negotiations following the next round, which will take place in Washington again.

Dr. Nabil Sha'th, 'Arafat's political adviser, for his part highlighted to AL-BAYAN the importance of achieving Arab coordination in the coming period. He pointed out that the PLO has called for the convening of a meeting of

Arab foreign ministers either now or right after the blessed 'Id al-Fitr in light of the importance of and the need for Arab coordination to push the United States to play a role in advancing the peace process and pushing the Israelis to take steps toward accepting international legitimacy.

PFLP, DFLP: Confederation After Independence

NC1703190592 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 17 Mar 92

[Text] Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, has said that a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation can be established only after a referendum of the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples and after an independent Palestinian state has been established. He said that the raising the issue of confederation at this time indicates ill intentions by certain people, particularly at this stage when the bilateral negotiations are not making any progress.

In Damascus, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] have emphasized that they support a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation but only after a Palestinian state has been established.

Negotiator 'Ashrawi Assesses Latest Peace Talks

TA1703150892 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 16 Mar 92 p 16

[Interview with Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks, by Khalid Abu-'Akir "after her return home from Washington last week"; place not given]

[Text] Q: How do you evaluate the fourth round of talks in Washington?

A: It was a difficult and intensive round, but at the same time it was characterized by the two sides speaking at each other or past each other, rather than to or with each other.

Basically, negotiations are measured at different levels and different ways of achievements. At the level of negotiations around the table and within the negotiating room, the level of achievements was minimum and the tone was rather tense. But in terms of the other level which is the level of information and the public level, I think that a lot has been achieved in presenting the Palestinian case and Palestinian position clearly.

At the level of coordination and discussion with the cosponsors, I also think that a lot was achieved in terms of making the Palestinian position clear especially with the view to the elements, activities, and the necessity of an immediate halt to settlements, as well as the human rights violations and the imperative of implementing the Fourth Geneva Convention, in addition to the substance of the Palestinian proposal.

There is also the level of Arab coordination which is certainly advancing or being served by the process through constant discussion, coordination, and evaluation.

And there is also the level of discussion and coordination with other countries, mainly the Europeans who are also involved in the peace process and have a direct stake both in the bilaterals and the multilaterals. There has been progress in that.

I would say, to sum things up, in terms of concrete progress in the negotiations, very little has been accomplished. There is no progress that can be translated into changes on the ground, especially in settlements and human rights violations. But in terms of political progress as part of a cumulative process, there has been abstract political progress that is not immediately felt at the concrete or daily level. This is part of a long-term process that requires the ability to sustain and endure tremendous provocation and tremendous odds actually to achieve serious long-term objectives.

Q: Some observers say that the last round failed because nothing was achieved. There was no progress and no achievements.

A: It depends on how you measure progress. If you measure it in terms with coming to an agreement around a negotiating table, then of course nothing was achieved and this is a failure. But at least we have succeeded in maintaining the initiative. We as Palestinians have succeeded in determining this course and the presentation of the political substance. We have taken the initiative and have maintained the initiative by presenting serious proposals, and this is a significant achievement. But again it is not an achievement that is measurable in terms of the negotiating room.

Q: Some Palestinians think that the next round should come after the Israeli elections. They believe that the Israeli government is not able to give or take now on the level of negotiations. As a result they think the next round should be after the elections. What is your view of this?

A: Israel has never really been committed to the peace process and from the beginning, regardless of the elections, it has tried its utmost to prevent any progress in the peace process, whether to prevent progress in the negotiations themselves or through its deliberate actions and escalations in the occupied territories, and in terms of settlement activities, and the targeting of the captive Palestinian population.

So this is nothing new, this is part of a pattern that is recurring in which Israel has prevented any progress. We don't think the elections are going to make Israel more interested in the negotiations than it is. But I believe the negotiating process as a whole should not be made subject to the Israeli agenda, or to domestic Israeli politics. It should not be transformed into an elections

game in Israel. I think that you have to look at the process with a comprehensive view to evaluate it in all its aspects.

There is one aspect called the Israeli component, which has always been negative and rejectionist, but there are also other aspects; the Palestinian dimension, the Arab dimension, the dimension of the cosponsors, the European countries, and public opinion.

And you evaluate progress or lack of it on the basis of all these, and at the same time you form your strategy not on what the Israelis are doing or not doing, but on the basis of what serves your agenda best. And it seems to me a serious and responsible attitude will emerge as a result of this overall assessment of all factors rather than a reductive approach of evaluating or taking decisions only as a reaction to Israeli domestic politics or as a reaction to Israeli provocative actions and political blackmail.

Q: Recently there were talks about confederation between the Palestinian occupied territories and Jordan. What is your comment on this?

A: Well, the Palestinian-Jordanian confederation is part of the PNC [Palestine National Council] resolutions of 1988. And as such it has never disappeared from the political arena. But at the same time, there is ongoing work in order to develop the idea of a confederation in order not to keep it as an abstraction, but to give it substance and details and to look at it responsibly.

This also came through as a result of the Palestinian-Jordanian agreement before the beginning of the peace process, in which both sides agreed that it would have a common basis of principle for entering the peace process, and they would have a common political agenda in the long term which includes confederation. And all of these are actually part of an ongoing political process of coordination with Jordan on all decisions which were taken earlier.

Q: You were quoted as saying that this confederation will be declared during or after a meeting between 'Arafat and King Husayn.

A: I said that nobody has the right to declare anything about the confederation except the highest political levels. But when I was asked about how long it would take for the details of the confederation, whether it is a week, two weeks, a month, I said certainly not less than a month. But I didn't say that an announcement would take place in a month. The work of developing the details of the confederation would take at least a month, and I know there has been ongoing work on this.

But the idea of a declaration is something that is not now under discussion, and I said any declaration will come up at the highest political levels.

Report Analyzes PLO's Ramallah Election Defeat

TA1703155792 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 16 Mar 92 pp 5, 15

[By As'ad al-As'ad, editor of the monthly literary magazine AL-KATIB: "Lessons From Ramallah's Chamber Elections"]

[Text] The results of last week's [as published] Ramallah's Chamber of Commerce elections bring up many questions that should be analyzed. The foremost of these questions that the Palestinian street is struggling with is why the National Bloc was severely beaten by the Islamic Bloc?

But first, we should go back two months to when the decision to hold the elections was made. At that time, the Islamic Bloc offered the National Bloc a compromise—the Islamic Bloc would get five seats and the National Bloc six. This was rejected by the nationalist forces, as they expected to get more seats through an election.

Within a few days, the National Bloc reached an agreement among the different nationalist political spheres that a united block would be presented, with similar arrangements to those established prior to the 1976 municipal elections.

The 1976 National Bloc platform was based on a refusal of the Israeli civil administration plan, support for the Palestine Liberation Organization, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

A problem is that the Islamic Bloc was not present in 1976, and their existence today makes the 1976 platform obsolete in 1992.

In 1976, stating that "Our ticket supports the PLO" was a guarantee for victory. However, the situation is different today, and declaring support for the PLO and its program is no guarantee that candidates will win. This happened in Ramallah, where the National Bloc counted on its support for the PLO to win the elections, without taking the communal, familial, and political structures into consideration. The National Bloc also did not focus on the villages where the Islamic Bloc was present from day one.

Ramallah has 7,000 Christian citizens, with 350 eligible to vote in the chamber election (out of 1,200 who participated in the voting). Their votes were distributed among five candidates: three National Bloc and two independents. None of these candidates won a seat on the council.

Why was there no consensus among the Christians on three candidates? Some say because the Christian candidates in the National Bloc were not from indigenous Ramallah families, but were Christians from other areas. This, in my view, confused the 350 Christian voters.

Also, the six independent candidates took votes away from National Bloc candidates, further weakening the results.

What we see is scattered votes. The National Bloc received 170 votes for everyone on its list, while 450 voters gave their support to 10 Islamic candidates. The rest of the votes were scattered across the board.

A quick look at the individuals on the Islamic ticket shows that they were in touch with merchants' daily concerns than the National Bloc [as published], making them more attractive to the businessmen. This takes us back to the basis on which the National Bloc was formed.

These were the main factors behind the landslide defeat handed to the National Bloc March 4. This loss should not prevent us from seeing all dimensions of the reality, namely that votes were in protest of the way the National Bloc treated the voters. The National Bloc failed to consider merchants' needs, and they reacted in kind.

The biggest lesson from the elections is that it is no longer acceptable to simply impose a national agenda on the people. The methods used for the municipal elections in 1976 are not acceptable today. Nobody has a monopoly over nationalism, because all people are patriotic, and all people support the PLO. However, this is no longer enough.

The National Bloc has to understand the message sent by Ramallah merchants, because merchants are patriotic and they know best who should represent them. The same applies to elections among journalists, doctors, lawyers, workers, teachers, students, etc.

In other words, our organizations will remain with no questions about their patriotism. Accordingly, an organization cannot consider a political agenda to be more important than other agendas.

What must happen is that the National Bloc must gain a realistic understanding of the street, and get a feel for what the people want. After balloting, people and companies need to be incorporated in the decision-making and not taken lightly, no matter how simple their opinions are, and no matter how much one might differ with their opinions.

This was the message from Ramallah merchants to the nationalistic forces. Does anyone hear it?

Kuwait's Palestinian Community Issues Demands

LD2103182292 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1602 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] The offspring of the Palestinian community in Kuwait have appealed to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid to begin work immediately and seriously to find an honest and appropriate solution to the tragic conditions to which Palestinian citizens are exposed. This comes in a note about their demands addressed to Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid by the offspring of the Palestinian community in Kuwait. It says:

We, Palestinians from the Gaza Strip, holders of Egyptian travel documents, and residents in the State of Kuwait, are suffering from our not returning to our jobs, the failure of our sons to return to their schools and universities, the failure to obtain Kuwaiti residence permits, and the failure to allow us to enter any Arab country in order to live in it. Dispersal befell some of us as a result of immigration to Canada, Australia, or some eastern countries, bearing in mind that these opportunities were made available to some of us but are not afforded to all, despite their effect in causing a loss for us and our offspring.

Therefore, we appeal to and request you to discuss our situation and to find us an honest and appropriate solution, either by staying in Kuwait, together with the return to our jobs; by allowing us to live in the Arab Republic of Egypt among our brothers, the generous people of Egypt; by intervening with the brothers in the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] to create job opportunities for us; or by approaching the United Nations to return us to the Gaza Strip, to guarantee our residence, our jobs, and to provide us with health and educational services in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Algeria

FIS To Wage 'Holy War'; Security Increased

LD2203222192 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 2100 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Text] The Algerian security forces have intensified their security measures in Algiers following a declaration by the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] that it will wage as of yesterday, Sunday, what it called a holy war.

It is reported that Algerian paratroopers have set up roadblocks in Algiers to search cars and that special units have been deployed near strategic locations and public buildings.

FIS Calls for Political Detainees' Release

LD2103171492 Rabat MAP in English 1319 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] Algiers, Mar 21 (MAP)—The Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), banned lately by the Algerian authorities called Friday for the release of political detainees, including FIS leaders and appealed for dialogue with the parties representing the Algerian people.

The Front also called for the end of the persecution against fundamentalists, lift of the emergency state and setting a date for the resumption of the electoral process.

The call, made by Abderrazaq Radjam who is in charge of the Front's information commission, holds the current authority responsible for the state of uncertainty and unstability prevailing in the country.

Interior Minister Says Democracy 'Irreversible'

LD2303100992 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0700 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] Interior Minister Larbi Belkheir has given an interview to the Egyptian weekly ROSE AL-YUSUF in which he says that the democratic process in Algeria has never stopped. The process of elections was only frozen temporarily because it was threatening the democratic process. He adds that democracy has become an irreversible gain which should be based primarily on firm bases.

The interior minister emphasizes that the national democratic rally process called for by the chairman of the Higher State Council is aimed at unifying the ranks of the nation. As for the situation of the people's municipal councils in the aftermath of the dissolution of the Islamic Salvation Front, Larbi Belkheir indicates that the authorities will implement legal measures and that any breach of the law will be punished.

Concerning the assassinations of a number of security men and in reply to a question by a ROSE AL-YUSUF correspondent as to whether these assassinations were an attempt by the FIS to test the authorities' reactions, Mr. Belkheir says that we are looking for elements whose aims are clear and are aimed at dragging us into anarchy and sedition. The security services know how to react wisely, however, and they will continue eradicating all networks of terrorism and violence until anything threatening the stability and security of the citizens is eradicated.

Disturbances Affect Constantine Friday Prayers

LD2103010592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Excerpt] Disturbances were recorded yesterday in the Ziadia quarter of the town of Constantine. Witnesses told APS that these disturbances started following Friday prayers at the al-Ansar Mosque when peacekeeping forces surrounded the aforementioned mosque in an attempt to apprehend the mosque's imam. The same witnesses stated that 30-40 persons were apprehended and the imam managed to escape. These arrests were followed by disturbances in which the peacekeeping forces used tear gas and fired warning shots into the air to disperse the demonstrators. According to the aforementioned sources it is still not known whether these disturbances caused any casualties.

According to the local authorities Friday prayers were not held in Djendel, Ain Defla Wilaya. Following this, national gendermarie units intervened and apprehended 15 persons from among those who were responsible for the disturbances which affected the Friday prayers. [passage omitted]

'Acute Tension' Disturbs Algiers University

LD2103193492 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Excerpt] Once again Bab Ezzouar University is experiencing an atmosphere of disturbances. Acute tension between students and the administration has reached the point of confrontation. The students say that this is because of the closure of the university mosque. [passage omitted]

Official Denies Mosque To Be Leveled

LD2103134892 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Excerpts] The rector of Bab Ezzouar University denied to our station yesterday rumors circulating that he ordered the destruction of the university mosque. Bab Ezzouar University's rector said that the order concerns the building of a new mosque on the university campus to replace 10 halls used by the students for prayers at a time when Bab Ezzouar University is suffering from a shortage of study areas. Here is Mr. (Djebaili), rector of Bab Ezzouar University, explaining:

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] [Unidentified correspondent] On Thursday the police intervened. Can we ask about the reason for this police intervention?

[(Djebaili)] No. You must bear in mind that on Thursday I received the information [words indistinct] and there

were demands. They did not have the information, or they were misled. The mosque was open at prayer time. He said that it should open at prayer time. This is the information. The brothers [students] entered the mosque before the prayers and broke the doors; they destroyed them. There is of course some exaggeration. He said that the brothers should be allowed to conduct their prayers without intervention from the police. The police did not intervene, however. After I have received the information I went down and saw [word indistinct] and told the people that the mosque remains open. The police did not even intervene. [end recording]

Striking Students Close Ain el-Bey University

LD2103192692 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] Constantine's Ain el-Bey University was closed down again today, a week after classes there were resumed. Here are details of the closure in this report by Hayat Bouzidi:

[Bouzidi] It is only a week since classes resumed at Constantine's Ain el-Bey University order of the administration following the tension and disturbances there. The tension returned today as a group of students belonging to the movement which calls itself the Movement for the Defense of the People's Choice closed entrances to the arts and science buildings at about 1000. They chanted slogans customary at meetings on campus, where a communique posted by the movement called on students to go on strike for a week, starting today and continuing until 2 April [as heard].

The communique added that the movement's decision to refrain from an open strike has been exploited by certain parties and university deans in Blida, Bab Ezzouar, Annaba, and Tlemcen to increase arrests of students in order to punish them. The movement's communique calling for a strike concluded with demands which can be summarized as follows: the release of all those arrested at universities and secondary schools, and the cancelation of all disciplinary council decisions.

According to eyewitnesses, after being closed for two hours the arts building was reopened in the presence of its dean, while the science building remained closed until midday. The striking students, however, again closed down both buildings as scuffles broke out between them and other students who wished to continue classes.

It should be pointed out that the university council held a lengthy meeting this evening to resolve the situation. We do not yet know what its results were.

Rights Official Denies Detainees Dying in Camps

LD2103194192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] Noureddine Toualbi, acting director of the National Center for Human Rights, chaired a news conference this afternoon to explain the objectives of the center and to review the results of the visit paid by the center's delegation to the security centers in the south of the country. Toualbi began the news conference by saying:

[Begin Toualbi recording] This center has numerous objectives. In brief, they are the protection of human rights in Algeria. For this reason, the task of this monitoring center is a permanent one, for it has no connection with politics or with any official political or nonpolitical organization. In light of this realization of its tasks the monitoring center will be able to carry out the duties that will, God willing, truly realize what all of us aspire to in the sphere of human rights.

A number of center officials were sent to the security centers at Reggane, I-N-Salah, and Ouargla, where meetings which lasted for many hours were held with the detainees at I-N-Salah. However, no meetings were held at the Reggane and Ouargla centers between officials of the National Center for Human Rights and the officials there. [end recording]

Asked about the rumors that there have been deaths among the detainees at the security centers, Touabli said:

[Begin Toualbi recording] These rumors do not seem to agree with the truth. The military cadres have naturally categorically denied these rumors. They said that there have been no deaths whatsoever. [end recording]

Ben Bella Calls For National Unity Government

LD2003185192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Ahmed Ben Bella, leader of the Movement for Democracy in Algeria, has called for the formation of a government of national unity in Algeria and the organizing of free elections on the basis of proportional representation, with the aim of reaching a solution to the political crisis facing Algeria.

As for his recent statements on embezzlement, Ben Bella, in an exclusive interview published in today's issue of the Lebanese paper AL-HAYAT, said that the funds that had been transferred from the Algerian Treasury totaled $15 billion.

Asked about the ruling to dissolve the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], Ben Bella said that this decision will not help resolve the country's problems because the FIS is the barometer of political life in Algeria.

Libyan Official Praises Algiers' Support

LD2203170692 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Text] Libyan envoy Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi made a statement following an audience with Mohamed Boudiaf, chairman of the Higher State Council, in which he said:

I have conveyed a message to President Boudiaf from Colonel al-Qadhdhafi. The subject of the letter concerns the hostile Western campaign against the Libyan people and the possible tripartite aggression against the Jamahiriyah. President Boudiaf has expressed a clear and supportive stand which reflects the great support of the Algerian people for the Libyan people. I also believe that Mr. Boudiaf fully understood all the points discussed.

Egypt

Cairo Would Reject UN-Imposed Libya Sanctions

JN2103125892 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Excerpt] Informed diplomatic sources have said that the visit to Tripoli yesterday by 'Usmah al-Baz, President Mubarak's adviser for political affairs, dealt with ways to find a swift solution to prevent the Security Council from adopting a resolution imposing an air and military blockade on Libya.

It was learned that al-Baz informed Colonel al-Qadhdhafi that Egypt would refuse to implement these sanctions if they are adopted by the Council. Al-Baz, however, informed al-Qadhdhafi of Cairo's desire to bypass this crisis as soon as possible. According to the informed sources, Egypt supports the proposal to hand over the two Libyan suspects to the UN secretary general. It was noted that the Egyptian Government is mediating between Libya and the involved international parties to implement this proposal.

Egyptian sources affirmed that the president of the Security Council decided to postpone debate on the draft resolution prepared by the United States, Britain, and France against Libya, in light of the contacts held by Egypt and other Arab countries to pave the way for further contacts with Libya, to implement the council resolution and hand over the suspects in the Pan Am airliner blast. [passage omitted]

Libya's 'Umar Durdah Arrives 19 Mar

NC1903161292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1249 GMT 19 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, 19 Mar (MENA)—Abu-Zayd 'Umar Durdah, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee, arrived in Cairo this afternoon for a visit of several hours, during which he will be received by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

He was received at the airport by Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Arab League secretary general; Nur Farghali, chief of protocol at the Prime Ministry; and Ibrahim al-Sharif, Libyan charge d'affaires in Cairo.

Meets Mubarak; Departs

NC1903162092 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Mar 92

[Text] President Husni Mubarak received Abu-Zayd 'Umar, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee, this afternoon.

Dr. 'Ali al-Turayki, Libyan permanent delegate to the Arab League, and engineer Mahir Abazah, minister of electricity and energy, attended the meeting.

The Libyan official said after the meeting that he had conveyed a message to President Mubarak from brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, on the latest developments in the region, as part of the continuous consultation between President Mubarak and the brother leader of the Libyan revolution. He added that part of the message deals with developments concerning charges leveled against Libya on the U.S. and French plane incidents. The meeting lasted an hour.

The Libyan official left Cairo after meeting President Mubarak.

Libya's Durdah Returns for Further Talks 22 Mar

NC2203175492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1736 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, 22 Mar (MENA)—Abu-Zayd 'Umar Durdah, secretary of the General People's Committee of the Libyan Jamahiriyah, arrived in Cairo on a visit to Egypt this evening. The Libyan official made no comment on the talks he will hold in Cairo.

Received by Mubarak

NC2303102692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0745 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, 23 Mar (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Abu-Zayd 'Umar Durdah, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee (prime minister), at the Presidential Office this morning. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, and Ahmad Qadhdhaf al-Damm, general coordinator of Egyptian-Libyan relations.

Departs Cairo

NC2303113492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1110 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, 23 Mar (MENA)—Abu-Zayd 'Umar Durdah, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee (prime minister), left Cairo this afternoon after a short visit to Egypt, during which he was received by President Mubarak.

Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi saw the Libyan prime minister off at the airport.

Commentary Urges Peaceful Resolution of Crisis

NC2103153092 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Commentary by Ahmad al-Qasir: "Egypt's Pioneer Role in Defending Pan-Arab Security"]

[Text] Every day Egypt reaffirms its national and principled commitment to the Arab nation in its capacity as the nation's big sister. As such, Egypt bears a special responsibility to defend the nation's causes and security, and counter any aggression against the Arab people, regardless of the source. This principled stance is not in opposition to legitimacy and principles, or a departure from Arab League and UN charters and principles. On the contrary, it is basically designed to protect Arab and international legitimacy, and consequently, to safeguard international peace and security. The Libyan crisis over the downed airliners is proof of this. Egypt's long-standing and public position, which it reasserts today, is that it opposes terrorism anywhere, in any form, and from any source—it is a barbaric practice that goes against the spirit of the age, causes anarchy, and does not help solve international disputes. Violence provokes more violence.

In this matter, Egypt does not distinguish between individual and state terrorism. Egypt's position is very clear: It fully condemns the bombing of the U.S. and French airliners, because these were acts of sabotage that killed innocent passengers, regardless of their nationalities. Consequently, the criminals responsible must be made to account for the crime. First, however, one must ascertain the facts and carry out the necessary investigations before enforcing the penalties. In addition, any suspect must be given sufficient legal guarantees to defend himself before he is convicted and punished.

When Egypt moved on the international scene to deal with the Libyan crisis—spurred by its pan-Arab responsibility, its political influence, and the intimate relationship between the Egyptian and Libyan peoples—it wished to emphasize an important principle; that is, to avoid the use of force in resolving this dispute. In addition, it wanted to avoid exploiting the incident to penalize an entire people. It believes that the crisis must be contained and resolved by peaceful means, particularly because Libya has expressed its readiness to hand over the suspects to the UN secretary general. Hence, there must not be a rush to impose international sanctions through the UN Security Council. That action would have adverse effects on the situation in the entire Arab region, the efforts to resolve the Middle East crisis, and on the nations neighboring Libya. Perhaps it was this consideration that made the UN Security Council's president postpone discussion of a resolution imposing sanctions on Libya until next Monday.

Egypt's role in defending the Arab nation's security and peace, upholding its stability, and renouncing all forms of terrorism everywhere is a constant and well-known matter. Indeed, peace constitutes a constant strategy of Egyptian foreign policy. Egypt's continuous moves, over a period of many years, fall within this framework. Egypt has played and continues to play a role in defending the Palestinian people and promoting the current peace process in order to attain a just solution of the Palestinian issue. The Egyptian people have incurred numerous responsibilities as a result of their constant defense of the Arab nation's causes over many years.

Egypt protected the Palestinians in the wake of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982 and undertook to guarantee their departure from that country. Egypt adopted a constant position during the Gulf crisis, when it courageously moved to protect a fraternal Arab people—the Kuwaiti people—against the Iraqi ruler's treacherous aggression. The issue was not who the aggressor was, whether Arab or foreign, but that an aggression took place against an Arab people and, consequently, had to be faced and resisted.

Egypt's principled and courageous stand during the Gulf war enhanced the credibility of Egypt under President Mubarak's leadership on the entire international scene. In view of Mubarak's realistic and sober policy in handling all pan-Arab, regional, and international issues, the world considers Egypt today a positive and politically influential factor, whose advice must be taken in numerous international crises.

Egypt today, through its pioneer role in the Arab region, urges the Security Council to provide an opportunity for further consultations with Libya to implement its former resolution pertaining to the handover of the suspects in the case of the U.S. and French planes, and consequently, to resolve the crisis peacefully. Egypt rejects the use of force as a means to resolve international disputes, believing that calm dialogue is the ideal way to attain suitable solutions. Furthermore, nations must not bear the consequences of purely individual errors. More importantly still, Egypt wishes to safeguard the Washington-sponsored peace process to resolve the Middle East crisis and settle the Palestinian issue. This is why Egypt rejects the use of force against Arab peoples, just as it formerly demanded that Israel not resort to force as a way to impose a fait accompli on the Arabs and the whole world. This is because violence might provoke further violence, just as every action has an opposite reaction; and because peace will bear the consequences and eventually be the loser.

Foreign Minister Views Efforts on Libyan Crisis

NC2203075292 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Excerpts] The National Democratic Party [NDP] Political Club held an expanded meeting tonight. It was attended by Dr. Mustafa Kamal Hilmi, Consultative Council speaker; Dr. Yusuf Wali, NDP secretary general, deputy prime minister, and agriculture minister; Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif; Kamal al-Shadhili, assistant NDP secretary general and secretary of the

Organization Department; and the ministers of education, works, and water resources.

Minister al-Sharif said that a higher committee of experts and media specialists from Egypt and some Arab countries has been formed to redraw the plans for the satellite television channel, to make it different from the other television channels by developing its news programs and dispatching correspondents abroad to supply it with news and information.

He added that this channel will be introduced into Sudan and Libya within the coming few days. He also said that the television advertisements do not only have commercial purposes, but also other social and economic purposes that serve other fields, such as child development, culture, and combating drugs. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa told the meeting that a ministerial meeting will be held tomorrow within the Arab League framework to discuss all aspects of the Libyan crisis, and to hear the views of all parties and that of the Libyan foreign minister. He added: We are now studying the issue and are trying to contain the Libyan crisis as much as possible, to save the Libyan people, and spare it any measures that might affect this people's security and prosperity.

The foreign minister said all Arab countries are opposed to terrorism and all measures which represent aggression against legitimacy. He added: We also take into account our welcome of Libya's rejection and condemnation of terrorism. He said that Egypt is coordinating with the United Nations and bilaterally with the United States to contain the Libyan crisis, noting that no resolution has been issued so far imposing an embargo on Libya. He said: Egypt is protecting Libya's sovereignty, security, and the safety of the neighboring countries, and it supports international legitimacy against terrorism.

Discusses Iraqi Situation

NC2203113792 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Asked about the situation in Iraq, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said: We never interfere in Iraqi domestic affairs or in who rules Iraq. We always emphasize the need for Iraq's safety, security, sovereignty, and its people's well-being. The Iraqi people must dictate what they want for their future and prosperity.

On the Arab-Israeli talks, Musa said that the negotiating countries have their own views on the venue and it is well known that the next round of talks will be held in Washington.

On the Damascus Declaration, Musa said the Doha meeting will focus on the declaration's practical measures, noting that Egypt has prepared papers on implementing the Damascus Declaration.

Musa said that the Egyptian-Sudanese Committee is currently trying to remedy any tension between the two countries.

Economic, Trade Talks With DPRK Open 18 Mar

NC1903075292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1537 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, 18 Mar (MENA)—Economic talks between Egypt and the DPRK opened today. Dr. Yusri Mustafa, economy and foreign trade minister, led the Egyptian delegation; while the Korean side was led by Kim Tal-hyon, DPRK vice premier and minister of foreign trade. The talks, scheduled to last for two days, will cover the possibility of concluding a new trade agreement between the two countries in foreign currencies, settling the outstanding amounts between them, and the possibility of concluding a barter deal. The establishment of a joint chamber of commerce between the two countries will also be examined.

Agreement Signed

NC2003214092 Cairo Egyptian Space Channel in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] A trade agreement has been signed between Egypt and the DPRK, which stipulates that transactions will be carried out with foreign currency to encourage trade between the two countries.

The agreement will be followed by an equal trade deal, to encourage business visits and participation in exhibitions. The agreement was signed by Dr. Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade, and Kim Tal-hyon, DPRK vice premier and minister of foreign trade.

DPRK Minister Departs

NC2003123092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1127 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, 20 Mar (MENA)—Kim Tal-hyon, DPRK vice premier and minister of foreign trade, left Cairo for his country following a four-day visit to Egypt, during which he met with Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi. He also held talks with Economy Minister Dr. Yusri Mustafa on ways of boosting bilateral economic and trade exchange and the prospects for barter trade between the two countries.

Dr. Mustafa saw the DPRK minister off at the airport.

Libya

Agreement 'In Principle' To Turn Over Suspects

LD2003184292 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Excerpt] Diplomatic sources say that Libya has agreed in principle to hand over two of its citizens accused in the UTA and Pan Am cases to UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali. A Maghreb diplomat who announced the

news affirmed that the Arab countries are now trying to arrive at a solution in the framework of the United Nations, and Libya has accepted this in principle.

Furthermore, diplomatic sources at the United Nations today spoke about the possibility of convening a summit of Arab Maghreb Union presidents in Rabat in the coming hours—which Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi may attend—to try to persuade Libya of the usefulness of handing over the two accused. [passage omitted]

Government To Accept International Court Verdict

NC2203150992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1455 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Text] Cairo, 22 Mar (MENA)—Ibrahim al-Bishari, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation, asserted that his country will accept any verdict issued by the International Court of Justice, which will begin its first hearing on the downing of the U.S. and French airliners on 26 March, whether the verdict is for or against Libya.

Al-Bishari made this statement after an emergency closed session of the Arab League Ministerial Council concluded in Cairo this afternoon.

Government Reportedly Making List of Westerners

NC2103062692 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0605 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] According to Libyan opposition sources in Cairo, the Libyan authorities have prepared lists of U.S., British, and French nationals living in Libya. The sources did not specify the purpose of the move.

Foreign Bureau Reiterates Stand on Resolution

LD2203130392 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0115 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Text] The People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation commented on the UN resolution which, within the framework of their new colonialist campaign, the three states are working to have passed by the rest of the UN Security Council. The resolution imposes compulsory measures on the Great Jamahiriyah.

The bureau reaffirms that Libya—out of its respect for the international community and international laws, conventions, and norms—responded and expressed its total readiness in the investigation of its two citizens, whether through the law and investigations with the knowledge of the Libyan judiciary, or its invitation to the accusers to cooperate in order to determine the truth. It went further, demanding an international investigation and trial, and finally referred the case to the International Court of Justice—a UN establishment that should be respected by all.

The Great Jamahiriyah would like to remind the helpless members of the UN Security Council and the international community that Libya—out of its international and civilized commitment to respect for international law and convention—will not be affected by, will not be concerned with, and will not believe any measure or resolution which may be adopted in accordance with Chapter 7 of the UN Charter, because this will constitute a dangerous precedent and a flagrant violation of the UN [word indistinct] and Charter. If some wish to violate and bend the Charter by issuing unjust and invalid resolutions, then history cannot say that Libya should implement such a dangerous deviation and flagrant violation of the UN Charter.

Egyptian Official Meets With al-Qadhdhafi

NC2003212492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Tripoli, 20 Mar (MENA)—Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, this evening received Dr. 'Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of President Mubarak's Political Affairs Office. Dr. al-Baz arrived in Tripoli at noon today, and is scheduled to leave later this evening.

Morocco

Ex-Polisario Officials: Arms Given to Algerians

LD2203174492 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1545 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Text] Rabat, 22 Mar (MAP)—On the authority of some former officials of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia el-Hamra and Rio de Oro [Polisario] who recently returned to the motherland, the AL-'ALAM newspaper stated today, Saturday, that it is certain of Polisario's involvement in operations to deliver weapons and ammunition to certain parties in Algeria.

The newspaper, the mouthpiece of the Istiqlal Party, cited the former officials as saying that the delivery operations "took place in isolated locations in the Algerian desert and occasionally in the Libyan desert."

Rabat Islamist Students Injured in Police Clash

LD2003222792 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Today in Morocco scores of Islamist students were injured following the intervention by the police at the Rabat science university [department] to disperse students who were preparing to perform the Friday prayers.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Says Kenya To Cease Aiding Rebels

EA2303060092 Khartoum SUNA in English 1650 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Text] Khartoum, 22nd March (SUNA)—Chairman of the Revolution Command Council, RCC, Gen 'Umar al-Bashir has announced that the Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi has agreed to halt the assistance that the Kenyan authorities had been offering to the rebellion movement.

Gen. al-Bashir, while addressing the Council of Ministers Sunday, pointed out the Kenyan Government has expressed readiness to sign with the Sudan a non-aggression agreement. The Kenyan Foreign Ministry's undersecretary, Gen al-Bashir said, is expected here after the holiday of Id al-Fitr (Ramadan [word indistinct]) for signing the non-aggression agreement. He told the Council of Ministers that his talks last Friday with the Kenyan president were focussed on the facilities and the direct support that Kenya had been giving to the rebellion movement, such as allowing it to use the Kenyan lands, airports and harbours as regards passing its military equipment and other supplies to outlaws. Gen al-Bashir added that some of the Kenyan officials have been responsible for acknowledging that reality - a matter which is tantamount to the direct support to the rebellion movement. The RCC chairman noted that the Sudan has called on the Kenyan president to stop immediately any kind of support to the outlaws, including administrative and military assistance, otherwise the Sudan will resort to applying the method of tit-for-tat, saying that the Kenyan opposition has been searching for a neighbouring land for launching its operations. Gen al-Bashir has quoted the Kenyan President arap Moi as telling him that the former Kenyan under-secretary [not further identified] has been responsible for extending assistance to the rebellion movement. His Friday talks with Arap Moi, Gen al-Bashir said, also tackled the hardships that the Sudanese officials have been [indistinct word] at the Kenyan airport and harbours, the problems at the area of the Horn of Africa, besides the Somalian question.

Foreign Minister Assesses Egyptian, Iranian Ties

NC1803202592 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 13 Mar 92 p 6

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Sahlul by 'Atiyyah 'Isawi in Addis Ababa following the African foreign ministers conference; date not given]

[Text] ['Isawi] Would you give us an idea of the latest developments in Egyptian-Sudanese relations?

[Sahlul] I believe that during the recent visit of Major General al-Zubayr and his delegation to Cairo the two sides discussed their ties quite frankly to clarify all points causing problems between the two countries. They agreed to tackle these problems in steps, the first stage being at the technical level, until a meeting at the summit level is held in the future, God willing. I have learned that the first step will be a discussion of the Hala'ib problem by the two Foreign Ministry under secretaries. We expect Dr. 'Usamah al-Baz to arrive in Khartoum soon for talks with 'Ali Muhammad 'Uthman Yasin, Foreign Ministry first under secretary.

We hope that the atmosphere of harmony which prevailed during the meeting in Cairo will continue in these talks. In my view, this 40- or 50-year-old problem is not insurmountable for fraternal countries like Egypt and Sudan. I believe that other issues are marred by many misunderstandings.

As meetings and discussions on these issues take place the vision will become clearer, misunderstandings will diminish, and the two countries will reach a new standard of continual and developing relations. We need not state that relations between Egypt and Sudan could be pivotal to events in the Arab homeland and that bilateral coordination may give impetus to various African issues. I believe that a visit at this level reflects the two countries' desire to transcend their differences and to develop relations.

['Isawi] I believe that there are invitations for Dr. Yusuf Wali [Egyptian minister of agriculture and land reclamation] and other ministers to visit Khartoum soon.

[Sahlul] I think that agricultural cooperation between Egypt and Sudan will greatly benefit both countries. Egypt needs to import many food products from abroad and Sudan has vast land and water resources. Ventures that could benefit both countries are boundless. The issue deserves serious, decisive consideration by both countries' leaders.

A visit such as Wali's to Sudan may be seen as a step in the right direction because it will deal with bilateral cooperation. An agreement has been reached on some issues like the project to increase southern al-Damazin, which this season will expand to 80,000 feddans before reaching the ultimate goal of 200,000 feddans. While small, this project shows that vast lands in Sudan can be utilized in the two countries' interests.

['Isawi] Has this project not been affected by the misunderstanding that recently marred bilateral relations?

[Sahlul] I believe that the two countries' leaderships have shown a high degree of maturity in this respect. Supposedly differences in political views or even accusations that have occasionally been exchanged should not affect such projects or political issues. Indeed, the joint Nile Waters Committee was not affected and meetings at the technical level continued. Trade between the two countries is continuing, although this received several jolts.

['Isawi] What about the Junqali Canal?

[Sahlul] This is an issue of security. Many parts of the Upper Nile provinces have been secured militarily and

the canal was not affected by the war. What has been dug so far is intact and only 30 km remain until water can be poured into it. (This canal is a joint venture between Egypt and Sudan to use a large quantity of water being wasted in swamps.)

['Isawi] Because statistics indicate that Sudan can produce enough food to feed the entire Arab world, what exactly is preventing the two countries from making great practical strides in cooperation?

[Sahlul] The main impediment is that the countries lack funds. Egypt has commitments and limited capabilities. Regrettably, the funds in the Arab homeland, despite their availability, have not been utilized for this purpose. Regional problems have also arisen. The problem has always been that agricultural projects relying on irrigation such as dams, canals, and land reclamation require huge investments in the beginning. When all these basic projects are implemented, what they can offer will be unlimited. The two countries' problem is how to secure the necessary funds.

['Isawi] Have you thought about a third party participating as a financier?

[Sahlul] The Government and the president have proposed this idea several times. Of course I am talking in terms of when relations and the regional political environment are normal. This is why we said that al-Zubayr's visit could be a starting point. If this visit and subsequent meetings result in a presidential summit, I believe that this will result in everything that we seek. Once the two countries agree funding will not be difficult. As you said, a third party can be found. There are parties who can participate.

['Isawi] Such as?

[Sahlul] I believe that we proposed the idea of a Tripoli charter some time ago, and we repeat this proposal now. This is a charter among largely homogeneous states having family, tribal, and historical ties. Libya has implemented the Great Man-Made River Project. This indicates that its leadership has economic, agricultural, and food awareness that prompted them to think of such a project.

['Isawi] And what is preventing the realization of the Tripoli charter?

[Sahlul] First, I am talking about the Tripoli of olden times. Regrettably, we rush to draw up the framework before we put the substance together; we also forget the details.

['Isawi] Returning to the Hala'ib issue, as far as I know international law and the OAU Charter provide for maintaining the colonial borders. This is to avoid problems and so that no state claims part of another state. I am also aware that according to the 1899 agreement Hala'ib is located in Egypt on the grounds that 22 degrees latitude marks the border between the two countries. Will you explain Sudan's view on this issue?

[Sahlul] The issue of Hala'ib is very complicated from a legal standpoint. The 1899 agreement did stipulate that 22 degrees latitude is the border. Agreements later reached in 1907 and 1953, however, resulted in some modifications that were termed, at the time, as administrative borders to make it easy for the two countries to assemble the tribes under one authority and to look after their interests. As for Hala'ib, the Sudanese al-Bishariyin tribes inhabit a large part of it. The part that is located below 22 degrees latitude, which is administered by Egypt, is inhabited by the Egyptian al-'Ababidah tribes. This situation has continued all these years. In 1953 Sudan was divided into electoral constituencies that included Hala'ib. This was approved by the Egyptian and British Governments of the time. Customarily Hala'ib was under Sudanese control, and with the passage of time it became part of Sudan and the other part became part of Egypt. This matter was left until it was raised in 1956 when the first Sudanese Government was established. It is regrettable that matters got somewhat went out of hand, but wisdom later prevailed and the subject was frozen and was not discussed after that. Now a prospecting company has asked to prospect for oil in the coastal area. The company wished to start in Hala'ib instead of in the part located below 22 degrees latitude. This is when the problem arose. The very atmosphere of the relations between Egypt and Sudan caused the crisis to assume larger proportions than it should have. In any case, al-Zubayr's visit took place and an agreement was reached for specialists to discuss this problem.

['Isawi] What about your relations with Iran and reports which say that Tehran has trained terrorists in Sudan to launch attacks on neighboring countries?

[Sahlul] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to Sudan complements Lieutenant Gen. al-Bashir's visit to Tehran. The talks dealt with cooperation in various fields. I would like to affirm that the talks mainly focused on economic fields such as building roads linking the towns of Kusti, Rabak, and Malakal.

The brothers in Iran considered this a present to Sudan in view of its current circumstances. This road will make it easier for us to transport the harvest from this productive region to the north. It also represents a strategic point linking the north and the south.

There is now talk that they will help us in oil extraction and agriculture and that we will exchange open markets. The Sudanese-Iranian talks also dealt with the issue of the war in the South. A country like Sudan finds it difficult, under these bad international circumstances, to obtain weapons which would enable our forces to safeguard the country at a time when the rebels are receiving weapons from various sides. Therefore, we will accept help from any country which is ready to help us.

The Iranians were convinced that Sudan needed help, such as training Sudanese in Iranian institutes or sending Iranian instructors to train our people. This occurs all over the world. We have people being trained in Egypt,

Iraq, and Pakistan. This issue should not upset our neighbors, particularly Egypt.

As for training people in our camps, we would say that we have camps in which we train only the Sudanese Popular Army. It is not in our interest to train any foreigners in these camps. The Palestinians opened a camp in southern Sudan after all doors were closed to them after leaving Beirut. As for Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna], we are not prepared to acquire another problem by bringing Abu-Nidal or his men to our territory. Let anyone prove the contrary.

['Isawi] Please allow me to say that fears have been raised by the close rapprochement between the Sudanese Islamic Front and Iran, because this could mean the start of cooperation leading to training or recruiting extremists to work for it.

[Sahlul] There is a point that I must make clear to you. Relations with Iran were started by us as a government and not by the Islamic Front. We asked ourselves: Is it in Sudan's interest to confront a wide-scale rebellion in the South by having narrow ties or by having expanded ties? The answer was that we should expand our relations. We moved in the direction of Southeast Asia, China, and Iran. There was no immediate response. It took time to convince the Iranians of the need to have a mutual interest in relations.

There is a second point. Had there been an axis or alliance with Iran, the two countries would have agreed on all basic issues and matters pertaining to our foreign relations. We do not agree with Iran on two basic issues: The first of these is the peace talks. We support the peace talks although we are not enthusiastic about them for we believe that they will not lead to a solution ensuring the Palestinian people's rights. Because the Palestinian people accept these talks, however, it is our duty to support them. The second issue we disagree on is Iraq. We oppose the continuation of the economic sanctions against Iraq. Because the initial objective was to pressure Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait, there is after the withdrawal no justification for continuing these sanctions. Iran, however, supports the continuation of the sanctions.

['Isawi] Let us return to domestic affairs. How is the current situation in southern Sudan and who has the upper hand there, the government or the rebels?

[Sahlul] The government scored several victories this year. The split in the rebel movement affected its military capabilities. Darfur was freed of the rebels and the government forces occupied certain strategic sites in Kurdufan. Navigation of the upper Nile was reopened. The situation is currently reassuring because the government expanded its control around Juba and brought many areas in Eqatoria, the center of Garang's rebellion, under control. We hope that the rebel movement will either end this year or be convinced that it is useless to continue fighting and instead decide to sit at the negotiating table. In this case there will be no problem because everything that the rebel movement demanded when it was founded has now come to be. The division is now based on tribal affiliation. The Dinka tribe supports Garang while the Shilluk tribe supports his rival, Lam Akol. Other tribes such as the (al-Qubaysah) and (al-Mozli) side with the government because they absolutely refuse to be ruled by Garang or anyone else.

['Isawi] But is this a serious matter that might lead to civil war?

[Sahlul] Our brothers abroad do not understand the nature of the situation in the South, where there are many large tribes which refuse to be ruled by other tribes. It was a unified Sudan which maintained a form of balance among these tribes. Should the South secede a destructive civil war would flare up and whet the appetite of certain regional neighbors. Egypt and Sudan would be among those harmed by such a development. The first stage alone of the Junqali Canal project will provide 4 billion cubic meters of water to be shared equally by Egypt and Sudan. Two billion cubic meters of water will irrigate an additional million feddan. On its completion the project will provide 8 billion cubic meters of water.

['Isawi] You mentioned that numerous parties finance the rebel movement in the South. Would you like to name them, particularly because your ties with Ethiopia are now excellent and Somalia is busy with internal fighting?

[Sahlul] Regrettably, certain fraternal African countries, excluding Ethiopia, believe that the war in the South is between Arabs and Africans, Islam and Christianity, the white Arab race and the African one. They are still influenced by the era of the conflict between the Europeans and Africans. Thus, supplies come from these countries and from certain churches which believe that should the South be open to all religions, Islam would grow more than would other religions. According to statistics, Muslims constitute 18 percent of the South, Christians 17 percent, and the remainder practice other religions. In addition, there are circles which incite other parties to assist the rebel movement. The rebels still control most borders with Kenya. Because the situation in Kenya is unsettled and the authority cannot control all areas, even inside the capital, we cannot blame them. These borders are the supply lines of the rebels. We control the borders with other countries, however. We can eliminate the rebels in these areas but we want to ensure that they will not be able to control other areas. A decisive military solution would be strategic rather than a deployment of forces. A strategic solution can be reached politically by solving the problems through negotiations.

['Isawi] What are the current possibilities of a political solution?

[Sahlul] Contacts are under way and Babangida (the Nigerian president and current OAU chairman) is mediating the issue. We hope that his efforts will succeed.

['Isawi] Is Egypt participating in these efforts?

[Sahlul] It did in the past, but I do not believe that it is doing so at present.

['Isawi] Is Lam Akol's wing more open to a peaceful solution than is Garang's, or is this just a power struggle?

[Sahlul] In the beginning it was a power struggle. Due to Garang's arbitrary and despotic practices, many of his followers disagreed with him. Garang has gone beyond the goals of the rebel movement and set his eyes on the liberation of all Sudan. Originally the movement hoped to achieve the demands of the inhabitants of some southern areas which had been made under previous governments.

['Isawi] What are their goals now: secession, or political and administrative demands? Also, what is the answer of the government to these demands?

[Sahlul] Had their objectives been confined to political, administrative, and economic demands there would have been no problem. The government agrees to all these demands. They can rule their areas in the manner that they wish and can pass the laws that they wish. A satisfactory agreement concerning the sharing of resources can be reached. Any province which produces something is entitled to a proportionally larger share of that product than what goes to other provinces. This is true for oil or any other natural resource. But Garang's leftist slogans called for turning the entire country into a secular Marxist state. You may be aware of his slogans. The West's concept of democracy is to install in power a political system of its own choice, and then label as undemocratic anyone who dares to disagree.

['Isawi] My impression is that current international developments will keep every country busy with its own affairs, thus leading to a reduction in assistance to the rebel movement. This means that that the rebel movement may die of natural causes. Do you agree with this opinion?

[Sahlul] Your opinion is correct for the countries in this region, all of which are busy with their own affairs. But we are situated in the middle of eight countries, and their problems affect us. Therefore, we are trying to cement ties, to the greatest extent possible, with countries that have befriended us. In this way we will be able to deal with any problems that may arise in any country and which may affect us. We have embarked on integration with Libya and a certain measure of integration with Ethiopia. The same is true in the case of Chad.

For example, the distance between the Ethiopian road network and the Sudanese one is only 350 km. If we link the two networks Sudan will have road access to Africa. There are only 300 km separating the Egyptian and Sudanese networks. If we link them we will then have access to Alexandria. The same applies for Libya and Chad. These are all short distances that can be bridged with astounding regional economic and social results. Why not press ahead with such efforts?

What we need to export are our products and not Islamic fundamentalism. If Sudan is linked with Egypt and Ethiopia, and if tariff barriers are brought down, we will have a market of 130 million people: 55 million in Egypt, 50 million in Ethiopia, and 25 million in Sudan. Egypt has burgeoning industries which could benefit from such a market.

['Isawi] What would you like to say to the Egyptian people and government?

[Sahlul] I would say: You are in our thoughts and in our hearts. We are ready to begin working on these plans.

Government Agrees To Destroy Scud Missiles

NC2003181592 London MBC Television in Arabic 1805 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] We just received a report that Iraq has agreed to destroy its Scud missiles and all related equipment. UN sources said that this development will decrease the acute tension between Iraq and the United Nations.

UN Official Reacts Cautiously

NC2003210192 Paris AFP in English 2044 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] New York, United Nations, March 20 (AFP)—Iraq has committed itself to destroying all material used to build ballistic missiles, Rolf Ekeus, the head of the UN commission charged with the elimination of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, said here Friday.

In a letter delivered Thursday to the commission by Iraq's Ambassador to the United Nations 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari Baghdad also furnished "important new information" regarding ballistic missiles.

The information includes a large number of missiles, as well as chemical weapons whose existence was previously denied by Iraq, "which of course confirms our concern," said Ekeus.

Ekeus said the Iraqis said the missiles were destroyed last summer, "but we will investigate all the details."

It was not clear from the letter from Baghdad whether the chemical weapons already had been destroyed, he added.

The commission director did not disclose the number of missiles declared by Iraq. But he said the commission was satisfied with Iraq's undertaking to destroy its capacity to produce ballistic missiles, which until now it had refused to do.

"We are satisfied with this undertaking. The Iraqi authorities are prepared to go along with the destruction of capability, which they have not accepted before," Ekeus said, referring to the capability [to] build ballistic missiles. "It's a change of direction but it's not the end of the road," he said.

Iraq promised in the letter to provide the most complete information by the beginning of April, after Ramadan, the Muslim month of fasting.

Asked how much longer it will take before the commission can formally report to the Security Council that Iraq was in full compliance of the disarmament resolutions, Ekeus said, "I think it's a matter of a couple of months, if they are fully forthcoming."

But he said Iraqi authorities had been warned that "we have to be convinced," said Ekeus.

A team of experts is expected in Baghdad Saturday, where it will verify the information received, he said.

Baghdad refused last February to destroy material used in the construction of ballistic missiles, arguing that some of it could be put to civilian use.

The Security Council then called on Iraq to comply fully with the requirements of the resolutions or face "serious consequences."

UN Weapons Inspectors Arrive

NC2103162892 Paris AFP in English 1554 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Excerpt] Baghdad, March 21 (AFP) - UN weapons inspectors arrived here Saturday on a mission to verify Iraq's pledge to eliminate its ballistic missiles, notably the Scuds fired at Israel and Saudi Arabia during the Gulf war.

"There is now food on the table but proof of the pudding is in the eating," the British head of the mission, Derek Boothby, told reporters.

His team would "work closely with appropriate Iraqi authorities to proceed without delay to start the verification of the new information and to commence destruction of equipment associated with Iraq's ballistic missile programme."

The 35 inspectors are expected to stay in Iraq for nine days and will be followed by another UN team, according to diplomatic sources in the Gulf. [passage omitted]

UN Talks on Oil Exports To Begin 26 Mar

JN2003152792 Baghdad INA in English 1405 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] New York, Mar 20, INA—The United Nations Secretary General Butrus Ghali yesterday announced that negotiations between the United Nations experts and Iraq on exporting Iraqi oil would begin in Vienna next Thursday.

In his first press conference, Dr. Ghali said the assistant Secretary General Giandomenico Picco would head the UN delegation to the meetings.

Early today, the United Nations Security Council issued a statement following a brief session in which it welcomed Iraq's announcement that it would resume talks with the United Nations on implementing a plan to sell Iraqi oil.

In its statement, the Council has expressed readiness to adopt a mechanism of selling the Iraqi oil and oil products, once the secretary general informs the Council that Iraq is prepared to export oil on a fixed date.

The statement added that the Council members were ready to consider, whenever appropriate, an extension of the 6-month period given to Iraq in previous resolutions to export oil.

Meanwhile, INA learnt that the Iraqi delegation to the oil talks would leave for Vienna on Sunday [and] that it would be joined by Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations Dr. 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari who would head the delegation.

Baghdad Sends UN Letter on Missing Kuwaitis

JN2003202692 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1950 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] New York, 20 Mar (INA)—Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn has sent a letter to UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali concerning the Kuwaitis whom the rulers imposed on Kuwait allege are detained by Iraq.

The letter says:

Your Excellency,

Reference is made to our letter dated 28 February 1992 and to the letter dated 16 March 1992 sent to your excellency by the representatives of France, Kuwait, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Britain, and the United States. These were prepared urgently and tendentiously against Iraq without regard to the developments of this issue. As for the false claims made in the aforementioned letter, I would like to point out the following:

When we informed your excellency in our aforementioned letter dated 28 February 1992 that Iraq had honored its obligations as stated in paragraphs 30 and 31 of UN Security Council Resolution 687, we meant to say that for our part we had implemented the measures specified by these paragraphs and that this marked an advanced stage within the framework of closing this chapter, in cooperation with the United Nations and the Red Cross and the other parties concerned.

The contention by the alliance partners contained in their letter dated 16 March 1992 which viewed our letter of 28 February 1992 as a bid on the part of Iraq to drag its feet in honoring its obligations under the 1949 Geneva Conventions and relevant UN Security Council resolutions is not true. The allegations in the alliance partners' letter represent a distortion of the facts in a new step down the road of misleading Arab and world opinion and in seeking to retain the embargo and the unfair economic boycott of Iraq.

Iraq has indeed cooperated with the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] mission in Baghdad by publishing an advertisement concerning, and lists of the names of Kuwaitis whom the Kuwaiti authorities claim are detained by Iraq, in the Iraqi papers AL-THAWRAH, AL-JUMHURIYAH, and AL-'IRAQ on 10 and 17 March 1992. The same advertisement will be republished as many times as are requested by the ICRC. The Foreign Ministry has sent Memorandum No. 7/4/1/13/66177, dated 11 March 1992, to the ICRC mission to inform it that the advertisement and the lists were published several times in a number of newspapers. In its memorandum the Foreign Ministry asked the ICRC mission to inform the parties concerned of this action.

In implementation of paragraph 2 of the Iraqi Foreign Ministry's Memorandum No. 7/4/1/13/66109 dated 20 February 1992, Michael Cagneuk, the official in charge of the ICRC's operations in the Middle East and North Africa, was informed during his visit to Baghdad between 6 and 12 March 1992 that Iraq is prepared to immediately allow the ICRC mission to visit all jails and detention centers to search for the missing persons, in accordance with observed norms and the Geneva Conventions. Thus, the visits are open to the ICRC without any restrictions. This refutes claims made by the alliance partners to the effect that Iraq is denying the Red Cross such visits.

It is also worth mentioning that after the Riyadh meeting of 7 March 1991, the concerned Iraqi authorities have fully cooperated with the ICRC and gave its mission all the necessary facilities it requested to gather information on the missing persons. Any international party can ask the ICRC to verify this.

The alliance partners said in their letter that the Iraqi authorities did not provide a practical formula in reply to the investigative files on the missing individuals submitted by Kuwait and Saudi Arabia in October 1991 and on 18 February 1992.

Whoever studies this issue thoroughly finds that Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, and all the signatories to this letter, have made up the so-called issue of missing individuals in Iraq and have thrown all their weight behind making this issue a pretext to be employed against Iraq to maintain the economic blockade against it.

The truth is that only 13 files concerning investigations of the missing persons were submitted to the competent Iraqi authorities through the ICRC in the past period. The competent Iraqi authorities conducted searches and investigations according to standard procedures and rules, and in light of the information contained in the documents enclosed with each file.

Afterward an official reply was given to all ICRC inquiries and the files were returned to it, in accordance with standard procedures. No other files have been given to Iraq since then. Having provided the required information about these files, the competent Iraqi authorities have thus met their commitments in this regard and have exposed the tendentious objectives sought by the alliance partners against the people and leadership of Iraq.

The last paragraph of the alliance partners' letter also said that the competent Iraqi authorities did not reply to the ICRC's inquiry about people who died in detention.

The ICRC, through its mission in Baghdad, had previously been informed of the death of a Kuwaiti national, and his private file was handed over to it. The mission

was then officially and according to standard procedures given his body for his family in Kuwait. No other case was declared by the competent authorities.

Our letter dated 20 February 1992 was not a letter of intent, as claimed by the alliance partners, but rather was a truthful translation of Iraq's positive stands backed by action and prompted by humane, lofty, and noble considerations. Once again we would like to emphasize that Iraq has made good on its obligations stated in paragraphs 30 and 31 of Security Council Resolution 687. We request that your excellency, the General Secretariat, and all humanitarian and international organizations show understanding for Iraq's positive positions and put pressure on the partners which signed the letter referred to at the beginning of our letter in the interest of steering clear of fabricated crises designed to keep the economic embargo on Iraq in place.

Your excellency is kindly requested to circulate this letter as an official Security Council document.

Regards.

Kurds Report Regime Forces' Buildup in North

NC2003164092 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1605 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] A Kurdish source in Zakho has disclosed that the Iraqi Army has deployed reinforcements in northern Iraq, near a zone controlled by Kurdish fighters. The Iraqi move, which is timed to coincide with the Kurdish new year on 21 March, prompted a general alert among Kurdish fighters. Kurdish reinforcements were sent to the area.

No clashes have occurred so far.

Further on Government Preparations

NC2103170592

[Editorial Report] (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic at 1400 GMT on 21 March 1992 carries a report that the Iraqi Government is massing armor and artillery in northern Iraq and adds that Kurdish sources are "99-percent certain that an offensive will be launched within days." The radio station adds that Kurds expect two Kurdish-controlled bridges to be the targets of the offensive. The report continues: "Some 97 tanks and scores of large-caliber field guns joined the despot's forces in the slopes overlooking the Great Zab River last week." The report cites a Kurdish source as saying: "Iraqi forces in Aski Kalak have been beefed up by 2,000 soldiers in the past few days."

(Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic at 1400 GMT on 21 March reports that Iraqi Army engineering units are building an "earth embankment" in the (Khawr Sulayyim) area of the al-Basrah marshlands "to drain the area and facilitate an attack." The radio station adds that "to frustrate this desperate measure groups of our struggling people in Khawr al-Basrah attacked the headquarters of 4th Company of the 2d Regiment of the 45th Brigade, killing the company commander and a number of soldiers." The reports adds that "a struggling group in the al-Khass area also attacked an Iraqi Army unit, killing one officer, wounding 10, and destroying an armored personnel carrier."

Reporting on Kurdish rebel activity in northern Iraq, the radio station says that armed Kurdish groups attacked Iraqi military units in the town of Kifri on 17 March in retaliation for the Iraqi Army's "barbaric" shelling of the town. The radio adds that the Kurdish rebels killed 24 Iraqi soldiers and destroyed an ammunition depot.

The radio station also reports that "representatives of the Iraqi opposition forces held a meeting in Damascus on Saturday attended by Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam." The radio adds that the conferees discussed the latest developments in Iraq and the "necessary arrangements for holding the second plenary meeting of the Iraqi opposition forces and parties." According to the radio station Khaddam "reaffirmed his country's support for the opposition and the steps it is taking to expedite the downfall of the arrogant Baghdad regime." The radio station adds that "a meeting is expected to be held in Vienna on 12 April to elect a leadership which will work to unite the ranks to topple the dictatorial regime in Baghdad."

(Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic at 1600 GMT on 21 March carries a report that says: "Unidentified gunmen killed three of the regime's security officers in Karkuk at 1000 on 14 March."

State Helicopters, Artillery Attack

NC2003163592 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1605 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] The dictatorial forces' attacks on liberated areas and peshmerga bases are continuing. On the morning of 19 March two helicopter gunships attacked peshmerga bases in (Ban Jabbara), east of Chamchamal.

On the morning of the same day the dictatorial forces' artillery shelled the liberated areas and peshmerga bases in Nojol and Dowa.

This morning, 20 March, the artillery shelling of Dowa resumed.

Regime Spokesman Denies Operations

JN2203171692 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1656 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Mar (INA)—An official spokesman here has denied reports on the carrying out of Iraqi Army military operations against the Kurds in northern Iraq and described these reports as lies and fabrications.

Commenting on reports attributed to sources in northern Iraq by CNN on the carrying out of such

operations, the spokesman said that spreading such reports from time to time is aimed at serving British and U.S. political intentions in harming Iraq.

The U.S. network today quoted sources in the northern region as saying that Iraqi field artillery and helicopter gunships recently launched an offensive against the region, causing an exodus of Kurdish inhabitants from the region.

Ahmad Husayn Leads Delegation to Arab League

JN2103131392 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Mar (INA)—Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn and the delegation accompanying him left Baghdad for Cairo today to attend the emergency meeting of the Arab League Council due to be held there tomorrow, Sunday.

In a statement to INA the foreign minister said that the League Council will discuss during its meeting the draft resolution imposing an air embargo, as well as a political and military blockade on the Libyan Jamahiriyah and the fraternal Libyan people, whose passage is sought by the United States and its Western allies. He indicated that Iraq will stand on fraternal Libya's side against this onslaught.

Ahmad Husayn pointed out that Iraq and its leader His Excellency President Saddam Husayn early on identified the features of the so-called new world order which is being led by the United States and its allies. It aims to strike at the forces advocating independent decisionmaking and free will and rejecting all forms of imperialist hegemony and domination, to subjugate their national will and consequently control their natural resources and wealth, thereby securing the growth of the capitalist economy at the expense of the economies, resources, and wealth of world peoples in general and at the expense of Arab resources in particular.

The foreign minister added that Iraq early on identified these approaches marking international politics and declared to the world public that the hateful U.S. aggression against it was only the first link in Washington's scenarios to strike at all experiments in independent decisionmaking and to crush the peoples who are seeking to achieve independence, make progress, and secure prosperity.

Ahmad Husayn went on to say: Iraq was the first target hit by the United States to undermine its experiment. The U.S. list of countries to be struck is long, however. It is evident that the Libyan Jamahiriyah is meant to be next. Otherwise, how do we explain the fact that the United States is currently using the excuse of the Pan Am incident, which took place in 1988, in 1992? This, he noted, provides categorical evidence showing the falsehood and fabrication of this charge as well as the falsehood and lies of those who made up this charge and blew it out of proportion to achieve suspect political purposes.

The minister added: It has become clear to every free and fair man that the United States wants to impose its new world order by terrorizing nations and subduing independent experiments and nations seeking an honorable life. The best evidence of its plans is the continuation of the unjust economic blockade on our people despite Iraq's compliance with the unjust Security Council's resolutions and despite the fact that the Iraqi Army left Kuwait a year ago.

The minister wondered: Is this not enough to expose U.S. intentions and goals by starving our people, killing them gradually, and crushing the will of the survivors?

Ahmad Husayn said he hoped that the Arab countries would act in harmony with their free sons' will to entrench their independence, preserve and use their wealth to serve Arab interests, and achieve progress and prosperity for their peoples.

He stated that there is still a chance for the Arab countries to show their respect for their history and noble principles, the torch of which was carried by the noble Arab prophet to spread light all over the world, purify souls, and reassure this nation about the future of its generations. The Arab League's emergency meeting in Cairo will be a new test in this direction.

Shamir Urges 'Restraint' in Comments About U.S.

TA2203163092 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Excerpts] In today's cabinet session, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir called on the ministers to evince restraint with regard to Israel's relations with the United States. There were sharp verbal exchanges between Foreign Minister David Levi and Minister David Magen, who accused the U.S. Administration of waging a vicious onslaught on Israel. Our political correspondent Natan Gutman reports:

Defense Minister Moshe Arens briefed the cabinet on his visit to the United States, which was held in a charged atmosphere due to reports in the U.S. media about illegal transfers of arms technology by Israel. Reporting on his response to the suspicions, Arens said: I said that the allegations were totally unfounded, but the question remains of who is spreading such rumors.

The defense minister asserted that the damage to Israeli-U.S. relations has already been done. He added that the leaks have tarnished the atmosphere and might adversely affect Israel's defense industries in the future. Consequently, the defense minister said, everyone realizes today what a mistake it was to terminate the Lavi project. He said he complained to his U.S. counterpart, Richard Cheney, that Washington's arms sales policy might lead to the loss of Israel's qualitative edge over the Arab countries.

While the defense minister resorted to gentle words to describe the condition of Israel's relations with the United States, others used much sharper language. Minister David Magen attributed what he called the vicious, false attacks to the U.S. Administration, which is trying to undermine the Israeli Government. We must not put up with this situation, Magen said, in which the defense minister was forced to deny false accusations during his visit. He called on Israel to declare that the U.S. Administration's intentions are hostile.

These remarks enraged Foreign Minister Levi, who called for restraint. Let us not charge the atmosphere more than is necessary, he said. The verbal exchanges apparently reached very high levels. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir had the last word. Although a minister is entitled to express his views within the cabinet meeting room, Shamir said, the government should evince restraint. The key word is restraint, the prime minister stressed.

Minister Magen on 'Hostile' U.S. Attitude

TA2303101392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0805 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Telephone interview with Economics and Planning Minister David Magen by Razi Barqay on the "It's All Talk" program—live]

[Text] [Barqay] There is disagreement in the government as to how to cope with the difficulties we are facing in the United States today. Leading the more hawkish camp in the cabinet is Minister David Magen. Good morning to you.

[Magen] Good morning.

[Barqay] Minister Magen, what should be done?

[Magen] I cannot elaborate on the plans that I have presented—in the cabinet meeting, as well—but I am definitely prepared to point to reality as it must be viewed. One should remember that the U.S. Administration's attitude toward Israel changed in the course of the Gulf war on the basis of the assumption that Israel no longer serves as a strategic asset. The Cold War ended, the USSR fell apart, and the administration can view Israel today as no more than a minor policeman in the region.

[Barqay] What should we do about this?

[Magen] In my opinion, the most important thing is for policymakers to know the truth, not to conceal or try to embellish the truth that is staring them in the face. The U.S. Administration is systematically trying to undermine Israel's image in the eyes of U.S. public opinion. We saw the attitude toward the Jewish community in everything pertaining to the loan guarantees. We witnessed the statements the administration's leadership made regarding AIPAC [America-Israel Public Affairs Committee]. We also witnessed the attempt to attack Congress, which has usually been a supporter of Israel, and to try to erode its support for Israel, especially by attacking Democratic congressmen.

[Barqay] Which Israeli policymakers is the truth staring in the face? Who are those who entertain illusions, according to your definition?

[Magen] You can imagine that because I was discussing the government, this is the body to which I am referring. The cabinet is faced with a certain reality. It receives reports from various cabinet members, including the defense minister, who has just returned from a U.S. trip. The cabinet, therefore, should see matters as they are. Ways of thinking should be changed. The situation should be assessed in light of the new data, and the cabinet should also consequently do what I have proposed in closed forums.

[Barqay] In other words, it is the foreign minister who entertains illusions.

[Magen] God forbid, Razi. Do not steer the conversation toward pointing a finger at a mistake by any one individual. Regardless of divisions along party lines, we in Israel should know that our status in the eyes of the U.S. Administration has changed due to international circumstances. If this leads the administration to a campaign of incitement and instigation against Israel—as if Israel constituted a strategic liability, as if Israel might

hurt the U.S. economy with its request for loan guarantees—then I believe we have reached a new low....

[Barqay, interrupting] Should we withdraw our request for the guarantees?

[Magen] Let me say the following: We were promised the guarantees on a humanitarian basis. We drew up certain plans on the basis of that promise. The promise was not kept, and I would say that administration elements misled us. We should be aware of the existence of such elements. There are elements who are hostile to Israel, and our relations with them should be based on the knowledge, not the assumption, that their attitude is hostile.

[Barqay] For instance, should we not have admitted the U.S. investigating team that is currently in Israel?

[Magen] I expressed my opinion on this in a closed forum, and I am not prepared to elaborate in the media.

[Barqay] In principle then, what you are suggesting, Minister Magen, is a head-on collision with the U.S. Administration.

[Magen] No, I would put this differently. In principle, we should see reality as it is. It is not pleasant to know that this administration is hostile toward Israel, whether led by the Likud or Labor. This administration has intentions and political plans which stem from international considerations. These political intentions are not acceptable either to Labor or the Likud or to any other Israeli Zionist party, I believe.

[Barqay] The trouble, Minister Magen, is that it is impossible to live without the Americans.

[Magen] I have not yet proposed declaring war on the Americans, God forbid. All I am saying—and I am trying to convince you, too—is that one should read reality as it is. Over the past two years, the U.S. Administration has treated us hypocritically. We should rip the mask from the administration's face and say what we know about the statements it makes in camera, about its real attitude toward Israel, and about its anti-Israel fight and attempt to undermine Israel's status in the eyes of the U.S. public. If we tell U.S. public opinion things as we see them, I believe this will have some impact in the United States.

[Barqay] In fact, you are suggesting to do everything short of perhaps recalling our ambassador from the United States.

[Magen] Razi, Purim is over; there is no need to exaggerate.

[Barqay] Thank you very much, Minister Magen.

[Magen] Thank you.

Ben-Aharon: Crisis With U.S. 'Will Pass'

TA2203182192 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, by political correspondent Shlomo Ganor in Ben-Aharon's office on 22 March; recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Ben-Aharon] I would not like to describe Israeli-U.S. relations as being in a state of crisis. There are ups and downs, and we are now at a low. I would like to emphasize that our relations with the United States are founded on a solid basis, which will not be affected by this low. Therefore, we must look ahead. I believe that the question of the loan guarantees is practically behind us. We must move on and consider substitutes for the loans we need to absorb Soviet immigrants.

[Ganor] What do you mean when you say the issue is behind us? Should we withdraw our request?

[Ben-Aharon] No decision has yet been made either way. I would like to draw your attention, however, to the fact that Senator Leahy, who liaised between Congress and the administration, has said that the issue is practically dead, seeing that the White House has rejected the compromise he proposed.

[Ganor] Do you think that Israel can manage without the U.S. guarantees?

[Ben-Aharon] It will be harder, but we have friends who already have approached us and offered their help instead. I do not know whether this will meet our needs, but we will do everything we can to find the resources to finance the absorption of these immigrants.

[Ganor] A special U.S. inspection team is visiting. Does this reflect trust or distrust in the relations between the two countries?

[Ben-Aharon] I believe that two issues converge here. One is the reports from Washington on the transfer of technology to third parties without U.S. permission and in contravention of our signed contracts concerning the transfer of technology and U.S. military components. We claim the reports are totally unfounded, and that is why we are willing to submit to this inspection. This very fact should indicate that we have nothing to hide. I hope that the matter will be settled and that when it completes its work the team will issue a clear-cut statement to the effect that the suspicions were unfounded.

[Ganor] How does one go about settling the current crisis in relations between the two countries?

[Ben-Aharon] An election campaign is under way, both here and in the United States, and some of the issues may be attributed to the resulting nervousness. Based on our long-standing experience with the U.S. Administration, I truly believe that this crisis will pass. A change will occur in June, after the elections in Israel, and another

change probably will take place in November, after the elections in the United States. I believe that common sense and an objective view of the need for strategic understanding and political cooperation between us and the United States will dictate policy, both in Washington and Jerusalem.

'Full Cooperation' Vowed for U.S. Patriot Team

TA2103194392 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] The U.S. Administration team to survey Israel's arms deals arrived in Israel last night and this morning and will begin work tomorrow. The team is headed by the State Department's deputy assistant secretary for political-military affairs.

Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports that the team is supposed to examine the two Patriot batteries stationed in Israel to find the truth regarding the published reports that Patriot-related equipment and know-how was transferred to the PRC without the U.S. Administration's approval.

Israel has promised the investigators its full cooperation, and government sources again said this evening that they have no doubt the probe will prove that there is no truth to the published allegations.

Work of Inspection Team Detailed

TA2303120492 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 23 Mar 92 pp 1, 2

[Report by On Levi]

[Text] The U.S. inspection team investigating the suspicions that Israel sold Patriot missiles to the PRC began its work yesterday. The members of the team met with David 'Ivri, director general of the Defense Ministry, and with Hanan Alon, head of the ministry's foreign affairs department. The team stayed at the missile sites until late last night.

According to senior sources in the defense establishment, "the U.S. inspection team knows exactly what it is looking for and what it intends to find; it is very suspicious and seems to have done its homework. Our feeling is that if it finds nothing today, we may have safely passed their inspection." The Americans have with them a computer report with the numbers of the Patriot missiles deployed in Israel, which they are cross-checking against their findings in the field.

The Defense Ministry has imposed a blackout on the moves of the U.S. team, which arrived in Israel over the weekend and began its work yesterday. The members of the team and sources in the Defense Ministry would not divulge any details about the proceedings of the probe and its objectives. The 15-member U.S. team is headed by the State Department's deputy assistant secretary for political-military affairs. The team conferred with Hanan Alon and other department heads in the Defense Ministry, who helped them coordinate their work. At the missile sites they met with Air Force officers, who escorted them at all times. The delegation is scheduled to end its visit this coming Thursday.

[A similar report by Avi Bnayahu on page 2 of Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 23 March quotes a senior defense source as saying that "by sending the inspection team to Israel, the U.S. Administration mainly aims at pleasing the Arabs and displaying a balanced attitude to offset the UN inspection teams operating in Iraq."]

Shamir Issues Statement on Buenos Aires Attack

TA2203154392 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Excerpts] The vicious attack on the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires is tantamount to an attack on the entire State of Israel and the Israeli people, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir stated today, summing up the cabinet debate on the attack in Argentina. The cabinet was told today that the investigation of the incident is continuing and that the identity of the perpetrators remains uncertain. Our political correspondent Natan Gutman reports:

[Begin recording] [Gutman] [passage omitted] The prime minister summed up the debate by saying that the attack reflects the situation of the Israeli people and the State of Israel. We must fight for our right to exist, and we are doing that, Mr. Shamir said. At the end of the session, Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein read Shamir's statement in the wake of the attack.

[Rubinstein] The vicious attack on the embassy was an attack on the State of Israel and the Israeli people. This is not the first time that our diplomatic representations have served as targets for Arab terror attacks, and when the criminals attain their aims we all share the pain.

The government shares in the deep grief of the families whose dear ones passed away and sends its wholehearted wishes for a speedy recovery to the wounded. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Islamic Jihad Leaflet Vows To Continue Attacks

TA2303110092 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 Mar 92 p A2

[Report by Yosi Torpstein]

[Text] The Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine has in the past few days disseminated a leaflet in Jerusalem, stating that the recent attacks it perpetrated were meant to avenge the death of Shaykh 'Abbas al-Musawi.

In the leaflet, the Islamic Jihad movement warns "the envoys of Satan, the Jews, and the Crusaders not to insult the honor of the Muslims or deride their rights."

Moreover, the leaflet says, the explosion of the Israeli Embassy in Argentina has proved to "the Jews, the

brothers of monkeys," that Shaykh al-Musawi's blood is not cheap and that the shedding of Muslim blood cannot go unpunished. The same applies to the "heroic act" of Riyad al-Rifa'i in Yafo, the leaflet states.

Al-Rifa'i had no intention of killing an Arab, but "the holy jihad aims its sword at the necks of the infidels and the Jews and at their allies and assistants." The leaflet goes on to say that jihad is not a passing thing but will continue relentlessly until the end of days and until real justice is attained.

According to the leaflet, the attacks on the military installation at Gal'ed (by members of the Aghbariyah family), in Yafo (by Riyad al-Rifa'i), Turkey, and Argentina, and the war of knives are the only way to destroy Israel and liberate Palestine. "Jews cannot be talked to, except in the language of violence and with a gun."

The leaflet also attacks the members of the Palestinian team to the peace process, Faysal al-Husayni and Hanan 'Ashrawi, and their superiors in the PLO for humiliating themselves and for their willingness to sell Yafo and Haifa down the river. The leaflet calls on them "to terminate the despicable negotiations" and return to Islam because "therein lies our glory and strength."

Netanyahu Rejects 'Point-By-Point Retaliation'

TA2203184192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Report by David Ze'ev]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir called the [Buenos Aires] bombing a serious attack that also was an attack on the State and people of Israel. In a statement released following the cabinet meeting, Shamir says that when the investigation is concluded, it could very well be—in the prime minister's words—that we will know what conclusions to draw.

Deputy Minister Netanyahu reacted to the possibility that one Israeli response, when more information is known, will be to strike back into Lebanon:

[Begin Netanyahu recording] Israel has an ongoing policy of fighting terrorism. It is not a tit-for-tat approach; it is an ongoing war against the terrorists and their sponsors. We are now trying to find out who exactly was behind the attack in Buenos Aires, but our fundamental policy remains one of an ongoing war, and not point-by-point retaliation. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Cabinet Debates Bombing, Arens Visit, Guarantees

TA2203121492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Report by political correspondent Arye Golan]

[Text] Today's cabinet session has just ended. The discussions revolved mainly around two issues. Foreign Minister David Levi briefed the cabinet about the explosion at the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires, and Defense Minister Moshe Arens reported on his somewhat trying visit to the United States, which came following reports that Israel had sold weapons with American electronic components to other countries, and after the U.S. refusal to grant Israel loan guarantees for immigrant absorption.

Coming out of the cabinet session, Education Minister Zvulun Hammer spoke about the need to maintain a dialogue with the United States.

[Begin recording] [Hammer] Clearly, in the current state of affairs we have to hold discussions to clear things up. There are problems that range from guarantees to the unjustified accusations that Israel sold U.S. weapons.

[Golan] Mr. Minister, do you believe that the anti-Israeli campaign being waged by the administration could be curbed if Israel agreed to freeze settlements for a certain period?

[Hammer] I do not think the matter revolves solely around the settlements, and I do not think that would be the appropriate response. I would like to say, however, that the cabinet is of the opinion that Israel should conduct a dialogue with the United States, while firmly adhering to its positions and discreetly insisting on what it wants, without getting into unnecessary public confrontations. In other words, we must remain adamant on what is important to us but not provoke unnecessary quarrels.

[Golan] Deputy Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said Israel could not accept any linkage making loan guarantees conditional on a settlement freeze.

[Netanyahu] We were obviously not pleased that the U.S. Administration proposed conditions that no responsible government in Israel could accept. No government could accept any condition freezing settlement in East Jerusalem, in an area that is adjacent to the Knesset, not to mention a total freeze that would mean a return to the 1967 borders. There was no serious proposal that the cabinet could accept, and therefore it was rejected.

[Golan] Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein briefed the ministers on the annual report of the committee he heads on anti-Semitic manifestations around the world. Following the briefing, Foreign Minister David Levi called for international monitoring of anti-Semitic manifestations. The media will also publish selected stories on the prevention of anti-Semitism in the world.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 22 March adds: "The identity of those responsible for the embassy bombing is still unknown. No details regarding the arrest of people suspected of involvement in the embassy bombing were given. Ministers who left the cabinet session expressed the belief that nothing could have been done to prevent the attack and that it was too

early to draw any conclusions regarding security procedures at the embassy." The report adds that "Arens briefed the cabinet on the U.S. team that has arrived in Israel to investigate whether there was any transfer of Patriot technology."]

Labor Party Leader Rabin on Arms Deals

TA2103120792 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0905 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Telephone interview with Labor Chairman Yitzhaq Rabin in New York by 'Adi Talmor; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Talmor] The attack on the Israeli Embassy in Argentina removed the issue of the illegal sale of U.S. arms and technology to third countries from the headlines. You, however, are actually involved in this affair, Mr. Rabin, since you were the defense minister for many years recently. Sir, did Israel violate the law, or agreements with the Americans, on the issue?

[Rabin] Israel, in its capacity as end-users [preceding word in English], abided by its commitment to the United States not to transfer know-how, arms, or components to a third party. We are not so foolish as to jeopardize an annual grant of $3 billion for a deal worth 100, 200, or $300 million; we are not that stupid. We have always insisted, regarding the know-how, arms, and components of which we were the end-users—in other words, items that were given exclusively to us—that we did not break any U.S. law in our negotiations on arms sales with the PRC and South Africa.

Another problem emerged in 1986 when the U.S. Congress passed a law imposing an embargo on defense ties—mainly arms sales—to South Africa, which carried the threat of sanctions, but we explained our position to the U.S. Administration.

I had my first meeting with U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger at the end of 1984, soon after my appointment as defense minister, and in a private conversation I told him about our defense ties with the PRC and South Africa. When he was replaced by Carlucci, I and the Defense Ministry's director general met him and the assistant secretary of defense. I told him about our ties with the PRC, and together we looked for a procedure to ensure that Israel relayed information to the U.S. Administration. At that time, we were talking about equipment developed by Israel in Israel. We spoke about setting up a procedure to coordinate the relay of information. We did not ask the Americans' approval; we are an independent state that can sell its weapons to whomever it wants as long as we do not violate commitments to the United States or jeopardize our position because of U.S. legislation.

As far as the PRC is concerned, we are talking about deals that were made over eight years ago and that ended five years ago. As for South Africa, everything was out in the open; we discussed the matter with the Americans. I am not saying that they accepted our point of view; we did not ask for their approval. Nevertheless, in my capacity as defense minister, I saw to keeping the Americans—both the two secretaries of defense and the secretary of state—informed about the issues we were discussing with the PRC and with South Africa. [passage omitted]

Shamir on Building in 'Cradle of Our Civilization'

TA2303114592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said today that Israel would never agree to U.S. demands to stop settling Jews in the territories. Addressing hundreds of Christian pilgrims in Jerusalem, Shamir said Israel could not understand why the U.S. Administration was linking the humanitarian efforts of absorbing immigrants to political issues and thus denying Israel much-needed assistance.

[Begin Shamir recording] We have been asked to stop building villages and homes in Judaea and Samaria, the areas that are the cradle of our civilization. With all respect, I have to say that we cannot agree. [applause] This little country is all that we have, and it is ours. [applause] We have never been able to understand why Arabs should be entitled to live everywhere and anywhere in this land, and Jews should be forbidden to live and build and develop in parts of their ancient land. [applause] There can be only one meaning to this demand: It is an attempt to determine Israel's border and the ultimate status of the areas in question in advance of negotiations. We shall never agree to such a step. [applause] [end recording]

The prime minister also said it was difficult to talk peace in the face of acts of terror, pointing in particular to the bombing of the embassy in Buenos Aires. He said brutal terrorism was being directed against the very existence of the state and the Jewish people.

[Begin Shamir recording] The perpetrators of these dastardly crimes will fail, because they are rebelling against the march of history, they are rebelling against the will of God. [applause] And yet, even with the latest upsurge of violence and even though we mourn the dead, we are determined to continue with the peace process. Despite the difficulties and the provocations, we shall persevere with patience and tenacity. [end recording]

IDF Commander on Goals of Gaza Closure

TA2003205392 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Brigadier General Yom-Tov Sami', commander of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops in the Gaza Strip, told our correspondent that the closure would be for a limited period only. There were numerous disturbances today in Gaza. Residents hurled stones and a gas grenade at an IDF patrol on al-Nasir

Street. The soldiers fired back with plastic bullets. Official IDF sources reported that five local residents were slightly injured and taken to the hospital. Our correspondent Shlomi Eldar was in the Gaza Strip today:

[Begin recording] [Eldar] [passage omitted] The decision yesterday by the chief of staff and Major General Matan Vilna'i to bar workers from the Gaza Strip from entering Israel was, first and foremost, designed to prevent any friction between the Jewish and Arab populations following the recent wave of terror attacks. Nevertheless, the IDF intends to utilize the days of closure, during which the local Arab population will be confined to the Gaza Strip, to carry out activities that will prevent as much as possible the recurrence of terrorist incidents such as this week's murders in Yafo. Conclusions will be drawn regarding exit procedures for work to Israel, and it is hoped that the closure will also serve as a signal and warning to the locals of what actions could be taken against them in the future. Gazans went on with their daily affairs today as normal, and the markets were packed.

Demands to prevent Arab workers from entering Israel follow every wave of terror attacks. The defense establishment believes that such calls are unrealistic and considers them a passing phenomenon. A lengthy closure could bring about the opposite result and increase the number of terrorist acts inside the Gaza Strip and within the Green Line.

[Brig. Gen. Sami'] I expect and anticipate that this will stop the current wave of terror. There have been about eight attempts to attack soldiers and policemen in the Gaza Strip over the past two or three weeks. We had the upper hand in all these encounters. We killed two terrorists, who attacked soldiers, and captured eight others. We are trained to do our jobs. Preventing the workers from leaving for Israel will prevent any contact between them and people who are not thoroughly trained for such activity.

[Eldar] Sources in the IDF estimate that the spate of terrorist attacks and murders can be curbed by a continuous war against the hard core of the intifadah, which is made up of the organized terrorist organizations inside the Gaza Strip. These organizations seek to recruit new soldiers in order to bolster and step up their operations. [end recording]

Nineteen-year-old Husni 'Awwad was shot dead by the IDF today in Ramallah. Our correspondent in the territories Amir Hay reports that the youth hurled a firebomb at an IDF patrol in Manara Square. The firebomb missed and the soldiers shot and wounded the assailant. Later it was reported from the hospital that the youth had died of his wounds. The IDF imposed a curfew on downtown Ramallah. [passage omitted]

Gaza Strip Closure Lifted

TA2103171892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] The security forces are now lifting the curfew imposed on the Gaza Strip. Tomorrow morning, laborers who reside in the Gaza Strip and have the appropriate permits will be allowed to leave for work in Israel. Our correspondent Moti Amir adds that the closure was imposed yesterday morning because of the brutal murders in Yafo. Very few laborers leave the Strip for work in Israel on Fridays, and on Saturdays hardly any leave.

Our correspondent adds that this afternoon three firebombs were thrown at an Army patrol in the al-Mughazi refugee camp. No one was hurt, and no damage was caused.

Libya's 'Umar Durdah Arrives in Amman 21 Mar

JN2103123792 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1200 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] Libyan Prime Minister [title as heard] 'Umar Durdah arrived in Amman this morning on a visit to Jordan, during which he will deliver to his majesty the king a letter from Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The message deals with bilateral relations and the latest developments in the charges leveled against Libya on the crash of an American and a French airliner. The Libyan prime minister was welcomed upon arrival in Amman by Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir and the Libyan ambassador in Amman.

Delivers Message to King Husayn

JN2103190392 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] At the Royal Court this afternoon, His Majesty King Husayn received Mr. Abu-Zayd 'Umar Durdah, secretary of the General People's Committee of the Socialist People's Libyan Jamahiriyah. He conveyed greetings to his majesty from brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. Mr. Abu-Zayd updated his majesty on the charges against Libya in connection with the destruction of the American and French airliners. Present at the meeting were his excellency the prime minister, the Royal Court chief, and the Libyan ambassador in Amman. The Libyan envoy left Amman this afternoon.

Editorial on U.S. 'Double Standard' in Region

JN2103092392 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 21 Mar 92 pp 1, 27

[Editorial: "Lockerbie and Double Standards"]

[Text] The campaign to impose sanctions on Libya through the Security Council, led by the United States, raises anew the subject of the double standard which Washington uses with the Arabs and Israel.

Although the Lockerbie issue is a mere allegation, the campaign has changed it into the sole test of UN prestige and the international community, at a time when flagrant Israeli practices—which constitute clear and definite violations of the UN resolutions—have been overlooked. The reaction to them has been restricted to expressions of regret or calls for self-restraint.

It is important to remember, for example, that the daily murder operations that the occupation authorities commit in the occupied territories every day have resulted in thousands of martyrs and injured. The number of victims is still rising, and has surpassed the victims of Lockerbie several times. Nevertheless, Washington has not lifted a finger to adopt a Security Council resolution to impose sanctions on Israel, to force it to refrain from spilling the blood of unarmed women, old people, and children in the occupied territories. Washington has not lifted a finger, either, to force Israel to respect the UN resolutions that forbid it from annexing the occupied territories, including Jerusalem and the Golan.

Moreover, Israel has openly defied and rejected these resolutions, but Washington did not view this defiance as undermining the prestige of the United Nations and the international community. Neither did it consider it an act that deserves deterrence through the imposition of sanctions on Israel.

The double standard in dealing with the Arabs and Israel implies outright injustice, and indicates that the so-called new world order is a biased order that employs the Security Council as an instrument to implement this bias and to portray it as a legitimate action.

We should remember that whatever the results of the Lockerbie question might be, they will not acquit Washington of its failure to deter Israeli crimes, which are repeated and aggravated every day. Despite all the clamor being raised on this subject, it will not be easy to employ it to cover Israeli defiance, and U.S. failure to consider this defiance.

Paris Club Agrees To Reschedule Part of Debt

JN1903101992 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 19 Mar 92 pp 1, 15

[By Salam al-Shawwa]

[Text] SAWT AL-SHA'B has learned that Jordan's recent talks with the Paris Club were extremely positive. They resulted in an agreement to reschedule $603 million of Jordan's external debts. The rescheduling will begin after a 10-year grace period. The debts due between January 1992 and June 1993 will be paid over another period of 10 years.

The sources said that an agreement has also been reached to reschedule foreign government loans and development aid to Jordan for 20 years, including a 10-year grace period. Trade loans guaranteed by governmental companies will be rescheduled for 15 years, including a grace period of 10 years.

The sources added that creditors have shown great understanding of the difficult circumstances that adversely affected the performance of the Jordanian economy last year, due to the Gulf crisis and the economic siege imposed on the port of al-'Aqabah. This prompted them to offer these easier terms.

The sources noted that Jordan's adherence to an economic reform program and its adoption of several measures within this program—the most recent being an

increase in the price of diesel oil and other fuels—have reinforced confidence in Jordan's willingness to improve its economic performance.

The sources expect Jordan to reach a similar agreement to reschedule Jordan's outstanding debts, which amount to $500 million, during its talks with the London Club. The sources expect, however, that only $400 million will be scheduled. This constitutes Jordan's outstanding debt for last year.

It is worth noting that Jordan's foreign debt totals $7.2 billion.

Efforts 'Under Way' To Avert Israeli Strike

NC2103205392 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has reiterated his fear that Israel might resort to a retaliatory strike in southern Lebanon. Noting that the Israeli threats could be serious, he said that intensive diplomatic contacts are under way to avert such a development.

Al-Murr: 'We Are Wary' of Israeli Retaliation

NC2003134792 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Defense Minister Michel al-Murr has commented on Lubrani's statement that no Israeli government will accept Resolution 425. The defense minister said: This is a routine stand, which we have come to know through the negotiations.

Commenting on the explosion at the Israeli Embassy in Argentina, he said: We do not know the magnitude of the Israeli reaction, but we are wary and alert to anything that might happen. We have issued the necessary instructions for readiness in the south.

Al-Murr met earlier with his Irish counterpart, and said they discussed the issue of the south, particularly cooperation between the UN Interim Force in Lebanon and the Lebanese Army, the Israeli occupation, and the implementation of Resolution 425.

Hizballah: Israel 'Must Get What Is Coming'

NC2103202292 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Did Israel not expect to be the target of blows and strikes everywhere? How could Israel hope to sleep peacefully? How could the wrongdoer be left in peace? Israel has no right to be surprised. It must get what is coming to it. Israel is a ruthless, usurping, unjust, and criminal power which deserves what happens to it. For half a century, Israel has been killing, slaughtering, deporting people, driving them away from their homes, assassinating, bombing, and wreaking all sorts of havoc in the region. If it does not expect punishment for its crimes it is only because it is arrogant and megalomaniacal.

Israel would be wrong to think that its acts could frustrate other nations' hopes and break their will; it would be a mistake that would cost it dearly. The days when Israel killed at will are gone forever. Now every action will have a reaction and there are numerous ways to respond.

It is wrong to think that one or two parties are responsible for the acts against Israeli targets, officials, and nationals. The responsibility lies with all Muslims and everyone who believes excessive Zionist aggression is due to its neighbors' lack of resistance.

The pretext theory was wrong. The days when everyone was worried about giving the enemy a pretext are gone. The enemy does not need any; it needs only to make us feel guilty. If a katyusha is fired it is a disaster, if an embassy is destroyed it is a catastrophe, and if an attack targets the occupied Palestinian land this is unforgivable. This is what Israel wants us to think. It wants to come down on us with all its might, without hesitation or remorse. It has no qualms about killing our sons, women, and old people; but it wants us to regret every move we make. This is the mentality inside which Israel and other powers want to trap us, to weaken our struggle and to control us.

The difference between Israel and ourselves is that Israel kills without shame, trepidation, or fear, whereas we are sharply abused and criticized just for defending ourselves. We are seen as people who spoil the fun, not as part of the game; but things are different now. Israel must expect swift and heavy retribution for any act of aggression it commits.

Israel has no right to attack peaceful citizens. It is the right of Muslims to take revenge on Israel both inside and outside the occupied territories and anywhere else. Did Israel think it was playing a game of cat and mouse with a local organization when it assassinated Hizballah Secretary General 'Abbas al-Musawi? The act aroused the anger of Muslims worldwide. The magnitude of the reaction and participation in the funeral demonstrated this anger. It is also indicative of the new enemies which Israel made in Lebanon, the region, and the world. Given the latest ugly Zionist act, these enemies will stir up anger and hatred against this tyrannical force and will mobilize all their resources and endeavors for more confrontation. We ask: Who ordered that handsome Muslim youth in Palestine to take revenge with the sword? Who ordered the woman to take revenge with the knife? Who ordered all those to take revenge? It is the logic of history and the logic of Islam's awakening. We will not weep; we will take revenge. Muslims have learned that weeping does not help, all it has done is make them the weakest nation.

Rumors of Prime Minister's Resignation Denied

NC2003121092 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Rumors were spread today to the effect that Prime Minister 'Umar Karami has tendered his resignation. Sources close to the prime minister expressed surprise at the rumors, which have been made by those who speculate on the value of the U.S. dollar.

Those people claim that Prime Minister 'Umar Karami submitted the resignation of his government, when the prime minister was really in his office, carrying out his official duties as usual, the sources added.

The sources said that such rumors are a link in a long chain of rumors which aim to confuse the financial situation in the country.

Karami: No Plans for Reshuffle

NC2103104092 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] Prime Minister 'Umar Karami said there are no plans for a full or partial government reshuffle. He said the government can still serve the country. Karami told our radio: I would be the first to support any team which could alleviate the country's economic crisis. Karami said he does not have the authority to change the government because the country's three top officials must make any such decision.

Karami said: We have good ties with Syria, but the Syrians do not interfere in our domestic affairs, nor do we wish them to.

The prime minister said that it was agreed to rotate top administrative posts among various communities every four years, following the beginning of every parliamentary term. He said: We will pass a law to this effect. We have agreed that employees already in the service will fill these posts. Karami said that things are going well and he will hold a long meeting with President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayni al-Husayni to discuss this, adding that if they fail to resolve the issue he will refer it to the Chamber of Deputies.

On the economy, Karami noted that Lebanon's assets still exceed its debts. He said Lebanon is the only country that services its debts regularly, and he described the economic crisis as artificial.

Irish Minister Meets al-Murr, Inspects Troops

NC2003114192 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] The meeting between John Wilson, Irish deputy prime minister and defense minister, and Lebanese Defense Minister Michel al-Murr has ended. After the meeting, Wilson said: I paid a very important visit to the Defense Ministry and to southern Lebanon. I inspected the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] positions in various villages in the south. I am reassured about the peace mission that UNIFIL, particularly the Irish contingent in al-Naqurah, is carrying out.

'Resistance' Claims Operation in 'Aytarun

NC2303103492 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1012 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] The national resistance carried out a new operation against the Israeli occupation forces in southern Lebanon. In a statement issued today, the resistance command declared that the group called Martyrs Muhammad Qansu and Ahmad Qasir, who were comrades of prisoner Suha Bisharah, blew up the security center of the Israeli intelligence service in the town of 'Aytarun this morning, destroying the center and killing its personnel.

The statement explained that the center is surrounded by the homes of pro-occupation militia officials. The statement noted that the same group detonated a second explosive device in an Israeli occupation force post. The group returned safely to base.

Report of Casualties Denied

NC2303105092 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 1030 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] Our military correspondent reports that an explosion occurred overnight in a building belonging to the security authorities in the town of 'Aytarun. The blast caused material damage but no casualties, contrary to the statement issued by the command of the so-called national resistance.

Border Trade With Iraq Allegedly Opened

NC2303130792 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] The MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC SURVEY today reported that Syria has opened two crossing points on its borders with Iraq for trade purposes.

The bulletin pointed out that trade began last December, when Iraq exported goods valued at $15 million to Syria.

Allegation Denied

JN2303135392 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1300 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] In Nicosia, the MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC SURVEY today stressed that Syria has gradually and cautiously begun to open its borders with Iraq for trade, despite the international economic blockade which has been imposed on Iraq for 20 months.

The bulletin added that Syria recently opened the border posts of al-Walid and Abu Kamal to trade, after Jordan and Turkey adopted measures to stop their trade with Iraq.

The Damascus authorities stressed that the borders with Iraq are closed. They had no comment to make on the contents of the aforementioned bulletin.

Human Rights Activists Reportedly Imprisoned

JN2003071592 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] In a statement issued in Paris yesterday, the Committees in Defense of Democratic Freedoms and Human Rights [lijan al-difa' 'an al-hurriyat al-dimuqratiyah wa huquq al-insan] in Syria said that an extraordinary Syrian court had sentenced nine Syrians to terms between 3 and 10 years for belonging to a human rights organization. The statement said that the sentences were handed down on 17 March in accordance with the 1963 Emergency Law, and that among the convicted were writers, lawyers, and jurists.

'Circles' Warn of Israeli Attack in Lebanon

JN2203180092 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Text] Syrian circles in Damascus today warned that the Zionist enemy may carry out a new act of aggression against southern Lebanon under the pretext of avenging the bombing of the Zionist embassy in Argentina. These circles pointed to current intensive military maneuvers by Zionist forces in southern Lebanon. The siege imposed on ports in southern Lebanon by Zionist gunboats, the circles explained, must be a prelude for a premeditated Zionist aggression on Lebanon.

Commentary: Israel Attempts To 'Exploit' Bombing

JN2003151792 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: As Syrian-Egyptian consultations are the axis of joint Arab action, leader al-Asad's visit to Cairo and his talks with President Mubarak constitute a landmark in a joint move to ward off threats against the Arab nation, to make the international community face its responsibilities, and to confront the Israeli rulers' continued challenge to the United Nations and their rejection of a just and comprehensive settlement of the Middle East conflict.

President al-Asad warned of the consequences of targeting the Arab nation, and drew attention to the dangers of the current threats against Libya and Iraq, at a time when the international community is ignoring the need to apply the Security Council's resolutions to Israel. This threatens UN credibility and the world order's goals. What is applied to the Arabs is not applied to Israel, even though the Zionist aggression has continued for over 40 years, and even though Israel's criminal actions have not only violated human rights, peoples' rights, UN laws, and the international community's charters in the occupied Arab territories, but also harmed neighboring Arab and other countries.

Israel also fed and adopted all types of terrorism in its policy to deal with its neighbors. It is common knowledge that occupation generates resistance, that violence generates violence, and that there is no way to save the Middle East from a whirlpool of tension unless a just and comprehensive peace is achieved in the region.

Leader al-Asad translated Arab sentiments everywhere in the Arab homeland by stressing the nation's unity, and saying that threats to impose a blockade on, or carry out a military action against, any Arab country will affect all Arabs, especially since such a blockade and military action have no justification at all. Facts, events, and Security Council and UN resolutions make it incumbent on the international community to impose a blockade on, and carry out a military action against Israel, which rejects all international resolutions, and which has not yet complied with any of these resolutions.

Moreover, the peace process—which is being sponsored by the United States and Russia and supported by the whole world—encountered the intransigence of the Israeli rulers. They insist on settlement, Judaizing the Arab territories, and depriving the Palestinian people of their rights. At the same time, they continue their criminal actions in the occupied territories, and launched a series of brutal aggressions against Lebanon to satisfy their thirst for killing, destruction, and annihilation. In addition, they are trying to exploit the Israeli Embassy incident in Argentina to level threats and accusations, in an attempt to harm the peace process

through a large-scale aggression and destroy the international community's efforts to bring about a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Before the rubble of the destroyed Israeli Embassy was removed, Israel's rulers leveled accusations. Over the past months, these people have spread lies against Syria, and instigated the West to block arms shipments to the Arabs, while the Israelis receive huge quantities of weapons without charge, manufacture all types of conventional and nonconventional weapons, and possess a huge arsenal of weapons of destruction and annihilation.

Any ordinary observer knows that this feverish Israeli campaign has no other aim than to distract the United States and the international community from the peace process, and bring us back to the days when Israel did whatever it pleased, committed aggression under Western cover, and extorted funds endlessly.

Leader al-Asad dotted the i's and crossed the t's, and exposed to the world Israel's peace allegations; its rejection of peace during the Madrid and Washington talks; its adherence to settlement and expansion; and its challenge to the United Nations, the United States, and the whole world. Despite this, the Arabs will continue the Washington talks to completely expose Israel and place the international community before its responsibilities. Syria, which wants real peace, and which has always supported international law, is pained along with the other Arabs when it sees the international community refrain from its responsibilities toward the Palestine question and the occupied Arab territories.

The continued Zionist occupation threatens a large explosion in the Middle East. The positions that leader al-Asad announced in Cairo should encourage international circles to begin a serious and effective move to impose a just peace. They should also encourage the Arabs to build their solidarity and confront the serious challenges threatening Arab destiny.

Libya's 'Umar Durdah Arrives, Makes Statement

JN2003161592 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1540 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Excerpts] Damascus, 20 Mar (SANA)—Abu-Zayd 'Umar Durdah, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee, arrived in Damascus at 1330 today on a visit to Syria. [passage omitted]

In a statement to a SANA correspondent, Durdah said that he would convey a message to President Hafiz al-Asad from brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi on measures to be taken by the Arab League or any other side, in light of recent developments and accusations against Libya.

He added that it is natural for President al-Asad and brother Col. al-Qadhdhafi to hold consultations in light of these developments.

He also pointed out that the visit is part of the continuous contact and consultation between the two fraternal countries.

Received by al-Asad

JN2003184792 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] At 1645 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Abu-Zayd 'Umar Durdah, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee.

Mr. Durdah conveyed a message to the president from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September revolution in Libya, and the president gave him a return message.

Lebanon's al-Hirawi Arrives, Meets al-Asad

JN2103153492 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1518 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] Damascus, 21 Mar (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi this morning. The two presidents held a round of talks at the Presidential Palace. President al-Hirawi arrived in Damascus this morning on a working visit.

The talks centered on the regional situation in general, including the peace process and matters pertaining to cooperation and coordination among the Arab sides participating in the process.

The talks also dealt with issues of interest to Syria and Lebanon.

Karami Not Informed

NC2103132492 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Excerpt] The summit between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi began this afternoon at the al-Muhajirin Palace in Damascus. The Lebanese president arrived in the Syrian capital this morning.

Prime Minister 'Umar Karami has been cited as saying that the president did not contact him before his departure for Damascus. He said: We are the last to know, and I wish them luck. [passage omitted]

Lebanese President Departs

JN2103213392 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2115 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Excerpt] President Hafiz al-Asad and Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi resumed their talks this evening in a meeting at the Presidential Palace. The two presidents completed discussion of the topics raised during their first meeting. They also discussed issues related to the situation in Lebanon.

President al-Hirawi later left Damascus for Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Lebanon's al-Husayni, Karami Arrive in Damascus

NC2203114792 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni and Prime Minister 'Umar Karami arrived in Damascus today on a visit to the Syrian capital, after receiving an invitation last night.

They will meet with President Hafiz al-Asad to congratulate him. The meeting will also provide the opportunity to discuss the Lebanese situation in general.

Confer With Khaddam

JN2203215792 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2115 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, and Lebanese Prime Minister 'Umar Karami at noon today.

Discussions dealt with the overall situation in the region, the peace process, and issues of mutual concern.

Meet al-Asad

JN2303153992 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] At 1130 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, and Lebanese Prime Minister 'Umar Karami.

The meeting was attended by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, and Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi.

The talks dealt with issues of interest to Syria and Lebanon; the implementation of the charter of Lebanese national accord; and the situation in the region, including the peace process.

Khaddam, al-Husayni Comment

NC2303073292 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam explained that the summit talks between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi dealt with the Middle East peace process and issues that promote Lebanese and Syrian interests. He hoped these talks would serve the interests of the two countries and the region.

Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, explained that a government change in Lebanon does not depend on one person's will, because we have a democratic parliamentary system. The Constitution defines the way to change or reshuffle governments. Al-Husayni, who was speaking in Damascus in the presence of Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, said that he cannot decide for others, indicating that the al-Ta'if Accord, which has become a national charter, sets out the kind of government to be set up in Lebanon: one of national detente, embracing all political factions which support Lebanon's unity and independence and the liberation of its territory.

Khaddam declined to answer a question on a government reshuffle in Lebanon, saying: Why are you asking me? Ask the speaker or the prime minister.

On redeploying Syrian forces in Lebanon in September, Khaddam said: We adhere to al-Ta'if. The question of deployment depends on al-Ta'if and on a Lebanese Government decision. Those who are in a hurry for redeployment must support the Lebanese state, so that it can restore its indigenous power. Khaddam called on them to read al-Ta'if.

Speaker al-Husayni said that without Syria, the war in Lebanon could not have been stopped. He said: We are not prepared to absolve Syria of its obligations. It is committed to helping us. The second clause of the al-Ta'if Accord clearly states that Syria should help Lebanon.

Al-Husayni said: We cannot surrender security to chaos again before we restore our indigenous power, before rebuilding the Army and the security forces.

Afghanistan

Mojahedin, Militia Still Holding Mazar-e Sharif

Deputy Defense Minister in Hiding

BK2003131892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1304 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Islamabad, March 20 (AFP)—Afghan Deputy Defence Minister Nabi Azimi has taken refuge in an army garrison near the city of Mazar-e Sharif at the head of troops loyal to the Kabul regime, a resistance faction spokesman said Friday.

The general sought protection from the pro-Kabul troops in Dehdadi garrison and is now fighting for his own safety, a spokesman from Golbuddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami mojahedin faction said.

The government forces clashed with mojahedin fighters in the suburbs of the northern city of Mazar-e Sharif, which fundamentalist group Jamiat-e Eslami says was captured two days ago, he said.

The spokesman said the strategic city—often known as the "throat of Kabul" because of its importance on the capital's supply route—fell after mojahedin groups reached an agreement with nominally pro-government ethnic militia commanders 'Abdul Rashid Dostam and Sayyid Jaf'ar Nadeiri.

"Different parties are holding different parts in the city," he said, adding that most of Dostam's troops were at the military airport in Mazar.

"They have all turned against (President) Najibollah," he said, adding the ethnic militia and mojahedin groups did not want to attack each other. The alliance—thought to be fragile—is holding, he said.

Jamiat chief Borhanuddin Rabbani said Thursday that in contrast to stiff resistance in the past, the ethnic militias had remained largely neutral during the guerrillas' operation against Mazar.

He said the mojahedin were now removing pockets of resistance around the city, which fell after a relatively brief five days of fighting. Rabbani had no information about Azimi.

President Najibollah, a member of the Pashtoon tribe, sent the ethnically Tadzhik commander of the Kabul garrison to Mazar to try to win back the support of Tadzhik and Uzbek militia leaders who mutinied in February.

They were protesting against the president's moves since December to replace non-Pashtoon officers with Pashtos, many of them from his home province of Paktiya.

Mazar, one of Afghanistan's major cities, is populated mostly by ethnic groups such as Hazara, Tajiks, Turkmen and Uzbeks in contrast to the country's east and south which are dominated by Pashtoon tribesmen.

The Jamiat chief quoted his field commanders as saying Azimi was in Mazar until Wednesday, "but we don't know what happened to him afterwards."

A Jamiat spokesman confirmed fighting around Dehdadi, but said the situation was under control in Mazar.

There is no anarchy and no kidnapping, he said, adding life and property were safe and militia troops were surrendering weapons.

Ethnic Tension Reports Dismissed

BK2003154892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1541 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, March 20 (AFP) - The Jamiat-e Eslami mojahedin faction said Friday reports that local militias held parts of the northern city of Mazar-e Sharif and that reports that ethnic tension was high were simply Kabul propaganda.

Head of the Tazhik-dominated Faction's military committee Mohammed Ayub said here that, apart from one military garrison in the suburbs, the strategically important city in northern Balkh Province was completely in Jamiat hands.

Fighting against government troops continued Friday at the Dehdadi garrison, he said, rejecting suggestions of an ethnic element in the Mazar conflict as "Kabul propaganda."

President Najibollah hopes to "exploit (ethnic) divisions" to ensure his own survival, Ayub said, although "it has been more than 100 years since such divisions existed" between Uzbeks, Tadzhiks, Pashtoons and other Afghan tribes.

The Jamiat official said in this northwestern Pakistani city that the nominally pro-government ethnic militias had "laid down their arms" and that Mazar was "totally controlled" by northern Jamiat-affiliated mojahedin commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud.

Kabul sources said Friday that Mas'ud's group and some Shi'ite rebel factions controlled some parts of Mazar, but that the rest of the city was in the hands of local Uzbek militia commander 'Abdul Rashid Dostam and Ismaili commander Sayyid Jaf'ar Nadeiri.

The groups had reached a "fragile accord" that was still holding, the same sources said.

Ayoub, who is in radio contact with Mazar, said Deputy Defence Minister Nabi Azimi was fighting alongside the government troops at the Dehdadi garrison.

The Hezb-e Eslami mojahedin faction also reported earlier that Azimi had taken refuge at Dehdadi and that "different parties are holding different parts of the city."

Najibollah, a member of the Pashtoon tribe, sent ethnically Tadzhik Azimi to Mazar to try to win back the support of the Tadzhik and Uzbek militia leaders who

mutinied in February against the president's moves since December to replace non-Pashtoon officers with Pashtoons.

Ayub also said he expected Haybak, capital of Balkh's neighbouring province of Samangan, to fall soon and that the mojahedin had for the past two weeks blocked supplies to Kabul from the northern border town of Hayratan.

The guerrillas however have "no intention of starving Kabul," where provisions are arriving from Pakistan and the provinces of Takhar and Qunduz, mostly under Mas'ud's control.

But aid from Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan "can no longer get through," he said, adding these newly independent republics were anyway "busy with their own affairs."

Foreign Ministry Holds News Briefing

LD2003180792 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Text] A news conference for national and foreign journalists was held yesterday in the Foreign Ministry to report on the military-political situation in Mazar-e Sharif.

The BAKTHAR Information Agency military section reports that the Head of the press center of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the following in this regard:

The armed opposition groups, by spreading false propaganda, try to distort the truth about the situation in Mazar-e Sharif. Recently, the armed opposition groups resorted to planned attacks on a number of the security posts of the city from the north, south and west. These were foiled and the groups repulsed by the brave personnel of the armed forces stationed in Mazar-e Sharif. The armed forces' bodies then took the necessary measures to strengthen the security posts outside the city in order to foil future attacks by the extremists.

The head of the press center of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs added that the armed forces stationed in Mazar-e Sharif are in full control of the situation in Mazar-e Sharif. Sporadic gunfire outside the city has been [words indistinct]. Life in the city continues normally, and the people are preparing for the New Year.

The Kabul-Mazar-e Sharif, Mazar-e Sharif-Jawzjan, and Kabul-Hayratan highways are open to traffic. The country's armed forces defend their positions decisively and bravely. There is no concern over the rumored entry of the extremists into Mazar-e Sharif or other cities located between Kabul and Mazar-e Sharif. Mazar-e Sharif airport is open for air traffic.

Mojahedin, Militia Negotiating

BK2103151692 Hong Kong AFP in English 1450 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] Islamabad, March 21 (AFP)—Afghan mojahedin, admitting for the first time they only partially control the northern city of Mazar-e Sharif, said Saturday that negotiations were underway with the militia in the city.

Half of the city was under the control of the mojahedin Jamiat-e Eslami faction while the other half was in the hands of the militia, the pro-resistance MIDIA news agency said quoting what it called the "latest reports from Mazar."

Until now, the faction had claimed almost complete control of Mazar-e Sharif except for a military garrison at Dehdadi in the suburbs.

Reports from Kabul Friday said a loose coalition of mojahedin and militia formerly loyal to President Najibullah were in control of the strategically important city.

"Negotiations to remove differences between the two sides are continuing," said MIDIA, which is controlled by the Jamiat-e Eslami.

The agency identified the militia forces as those commanded by Abdul Rashid Dostam, an Uzbek, and Ismaili commander Sayeed Jaffar Nadeiri.

Indicating links with the militia, MIDIA said representatives of Dostam and Nadeiri participated Saturday in a flag-hoisting ceremony held by the mojahedin in the "liberated city" to mark the Afghan new year.

Jamiat commander Ustad Ata Mohammad, speaking at the ceremony, said the mojahedin victories in the northern provinces of Balkh and Samangan would lead to the "collapse" of the Kabul government.

MIDIA also reported that the mojahedin had halted Friday their attacks on the "last pockets" of resistance in Haybak, capital of the nearby Samangan Province, to give troops there a chance to surrender.

The agency, however, claimed that Major General Ghulam Dastgir Panjshiri, the governor of Samangan, had earlier been captured by the mojahedin when they overan the headquarters of the Khad secret service. The governor had also been heading the Khad setup in the province.

General Claims City 'Peaceful'

LD2103195792 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Excerpts] The sacred banner of the holy shrine of Caliph Hazrat-e Ali, the great commander of the Islamic world, may God honor him, was hoisted this morning, 21 March, at around 1000. A 21-gun salute was fired and prayers were said for the establishment of permanent and nationwide peace in our country, Afghanistan. The

ceremony was greeted with enthusiasm and applause by thousands of people of Balkh province and other peace-loving and religious people and compatriots who have gone to Mazar-e Sharif from various parts of the country. Along with this ceremony the traditional Red Tulip [Gol-e Surkh] festival began in Mazar-e Sharif.

The ceremony of hoisting the sacred banner of Hazarat-e Ali began with the recitation of a few verses from the holy Koran. Then, General Mohammad Nabi Azimi, first deputy defense minister and acting head of the General Command of the Northern Operational Group, delivered a speech. Sayyed Ekram Paygir, minister without portfolio, was also present. [passage omitted]

Gen. Mohammad Nabi Azimi stated that, as is known, shortly before the New Year certain people sought to disturb the climate of peace and tranquillity in Mazar-e Sharif, but the brave Armed Forces succeeded in foiling their sinister plan and created such a peaceful atmosphere in Mazar-e Sharif that no gunfire could be heard. [passage omitted]

It is reported that order and tranquillity have been fully restored in Mazar-e Sharif. The participation of thousands of Muslim and religious people in the ceremony of hoisting the sacred banner of Hazrat-e Ali, may God honor him, is the manifestation of this obvious fact that with the help of the Almighty the war and discord will [word indistinct] from our homeland.

With the hoisting of the banner of Caliph Ali the Red Tulip festival began and will continue normally for 40 days in Mazar-e Sharif.

Mojahedin in 'Full Control'

LD2103210692 Tehran IRNA in English 1539 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] Tehran, March 21, IRNA—A spokesman for the Tehran-based Vahdat-e Eslami (Islamic Unity) Party of Afghanistan today said the strategic northern town of Mazar-e Sharif is still under the full control of the Afghan mojahedin. "The claim of the Kabul regime on recapturing the city is completely groundless," he told IRNA here.

He also said commanders of two civilian units in the Mazar-e Sharif region had joined the Islamic Unity Party and the Jam'iat-e Eslami (Islamic Association) Party of Afghanistan. He identified them as Rashid Dustom and Mansur Naderi.

The spokesman said during the liberation operation of Mazar-e Sharif on Wednesday, the "'Dehdari" garrison where the 18th division of the Afghan Army was stationed, had also fallen into the hands of the mojahedin. He said many government troops were killed and wounded and a number of others surrendered to the mojahedin during the operation.

Mojahedin Capture Afghan Intelligence Head

LD2103111692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Excerpt] The head of the Kabul regime's espionage organization and the governor general of Samangan Province in Afghanistan, Brigadier Ghulam Dastgir Panjshiri, has been captured by the mojahedin. According to a report, the Afghan Mojahedin captured him in an attack against the headquarters of the espionage organization of the Kabul regime in Samangan. [passage omitted]

Najibollah New Year Speech on Peace Process

LD2003203492 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1630 GMT 20 Mar 92

["Radio-television" speech to the nation by President Najibollah marking the New Year 1371 (beginning 21 March)—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Dear compatriots, sisters and brothers. The year 1370 comes to an end and the peaceloving people of Afghanistan will begin the first day of 1371 [beginning 21 March]. [passage indistinct]

Thank God, on the eve of 1371, we have witnessed new and hopeful developments in the path toward a political and peaceful solution of the issue of Afghanistan. The aforementioned developments give an opportunity to the Afghans to become hopeful for a swift political and peaceful solution more than at any other time, and to look farward to the future of the country with optimism.

During 1370, all round efforts were concentrated in the direction of seeking various and additional channels aimed at ensuring peace and negotiations among the concerned forces of Afghanistan, and to remove the obstacles that are preventing the Afghans from getting together.

Fortunately the measures of the state of the Republic of Afghanistan were coordinated within the framework of the national reconciliation policy and international developments. The package of the policies and measures of the state of the Republic of Afghanistan and the international efforts came together and accelerated the process of a gathering of Afghans. As you know, this gathering will soon be held with the initiative of the United Nations Organization, which will be hosted by His Excellency Butrus Ghali, the UN secretary general. The participants in this gathering will talk about the ways to implement the five-point plan of the United Nations Organization, the transitional government, and [word indistinct].

The state of the Republic of Afghanistan, having expressed thanks for the United Nations Organization's goodwill, to the secretary general himself, and to his special envoy Mr. Benon Sevan, and to the peaceloving

societies and nations who are rendering assistance to our people to achieve peace and reconstruct Afghanistan, has officially stated its readiness to cooperate and prepare the necessary grounds to accelerate the United Nations Organization's peace process by issuing a statement dated 28 Howt 1370 [18 March] by the president of Afghanistan. [passage indistinct] At the same time I want to assure my dear compatriots that in all the primary stages of the UN peace process, their views and advice have been taken into account as much as possible, or they have been reflected or passed on during my various meetings with the special envoy of the UN secretary general. [passage indistinct]

As I said in my speech of 28 Howt 1370, I, the president of Afghanistan, in my turn, take the first step and by taking into account the national interest of the country—which requires from all of us the protection of the territorial integrity, independence, national unity, security, and immunity at this stage—I expressed my readiness to fully implement the UN peace process. For, national and international efforts have been made in the UN peace process to pave the way for a political and peaceful solution of the issue of Afghanistan through organizing and holding free and just elections under the control of a transitional government. The people of Afghanistan have the right to cast their votes for the true servants of the nation. This process can only be achieved and made possible by holding elections based on democratic principles.

Therefore, claims about keeping the monopoly of power—which were made here and there before the statement issued by the president of Afghanistan—have been totally refuted; and this logically brings to the fore the question that the other forces involved in the issue of Afghanistan should also resort to efforts to [word indistinct] of power. Now the time has come that all the Afghans, especially the forces involved in the issue of the country, to set aside their personal, group, tribal, party, and [opposition] organization interests, and think and act in the high interest of Afghanistan, which at the same time guarantees and ensures the national unity, national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country.

Fortunately, a number of countries welcomed the recent statement made by the president of Afghanistan to accelerate the UN peace process and the Afghans' gathering, considering it as a big step toward ensuring peace in the Republic of Afghanistan. However, unfortunately, a number of the leaders of [opposition] organizations [word indistinct] the statement made by the president of Afghanistan or do not want [words indistinct]. Also some of them in their statements spoke about a government acceptable to the mojahedin. It is better to [word indistinct] responsibly that the question is not about a government acceptable to the Homeland Party or the mojahedin or this or that faction. The question is about a government acceptable to the people of Afghanistan.

Despite the fact that the recent statement, after the very first hours of its dissemination, was welcomed inside the country by various categories of Afghanistan's people, a number of the leaders of the [opposition] organizations—with hurry and haste and without taking into account the high national interest of the country and without thinking about the protection, safety, unity, and security of Afghans, and the territorial integrity of Afghanistan, without stepping out from the narrow circles of their personal, group, and factional interest—proposed other pretexts and conditions, which do not conform with the existing realities of society and the interest of Afghanistan's people. Every day new plans, ideas, and developments are being created in connection with the political and peaceful solution of the issue of Afghanistan. Unfortunately, a number of the leaders of the organizations take irresponsible stances by presenting endless conditions in the interest of ensuring their own personal and group benefit.

Under the situation where the war daily drags the country toward the destruction of its financial and morale nucleus, we seriously hope that the sides involved in the issue of Afghanistan will take an approach to the plans, ideas, and new developments which have been created as a result of internal and international efforts, with (? coolness) and by [word indistinct] the high national interest of the country.

Dear compatriots, fortunately it snowed several times during the last winter, which is good news for the improvement of cultivation, agriculture, and the great supply of the (? economic) resource. [passage indistinct; 1 min]

The path that lies before us to achieve the peace process will naturally have problems and difficulties. There is a saying: However high a mountain is, there is still a way to reach it. Similarly the path of peace—despite the fact that it has many ups and downs—we have the hope and firm intention that the Afghans, following the sufferings resulting directly or indirectly from the long war, will finally succeed in achieving it, and join hands together, and with the help of Almighty God, will ensure peace in their country and embark on the reconstruction of their common home.

Dear compatriots, sisters and brothers: I hope the year 1371 will be one of peace, prosperity, and welfare for you and all the people of Afghanistan. We hope Almighty God will help us toward ensuring peace and the reconstruction of Afghanistan. Success comes from God.

Hekmatyar on Najibollah Willingness To Step Down

BK2003123192 Lahore THE NATION (Islamabad THE NATION Supplement) in English 20 Mar 92 p 1

[by Shamim Shahid]

[Text] Peshawar—President Dr Najib has surprised resistance leaders with showing his willingness on Wednesday to step down from power for an amicable settlement of the conflict i.e. free, impartial and independent general elections in Afghanistan and as a result

an elected democrat government to rule the country. However, some Afghan leaders have termed it Dr. Najib's situational compulsion while many consider it another success of the 40-year old old Afghan President.

Expressing his comments on Najib's readiness, Hizb-e Eslami chief Hekmatyar commented that now there was no way left for Najib other than to quit the power. Hekmatyar is one of those who have demanded of UN envoy, Mr Bendan Sevan that they would participate in the United Nation's peace conference if Dr. Najib left the government. He claimed that Dr. Najib was not even able to resist the situation.

Hekmatyar was however, reluctant to admit that the 13-year long war was now converting into ethnic riots in Afghanistan and claimed that all Mojahedin were united to secure their common objectives. He alleged that after demise of Soveit Union, the Communist elements in Afghanistan were dividing on ethnic and lingual basis while Mojahedin were very firm on Islamic ideologies for their objectives.

Malik Nadar Khan Zakhakhel, chief of the Tribal Peace Mission said on the occasion that Dr Najib had proved himself a peace loving and patriot Afghan. "Najib has pushed his rivals into a surprising situation with just for the sake of restoration of peace. It is high time for the people to avail the opportunity and save Afghanistan [no end quotemarks received]

The tribal elder denied the impression that recent decision of Dr Najib was a new one but said that Dr. Najib had assured them that he would quit the power. I myself conveyed Dr. Najib's sentiments to Mr. Peter Lomson, Robert Oakley, Foreign Minister of Switzerland, and other national and foreign officials. With the decision, he had proved himself a true leader of the Afghans.

Leaders called upon Peshawar, Tehran based Afghan group for announcement for full support the Najib's decision.

Hekmatyar Finds UN Peace Plan 'Impracticable'

BK1303110592 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 13 Mar 92 p 6

[Text] Islamabad, March 12—Benon Sevan, Personal Representative of UN Secretary-General for Afghanistan has called on Engineer Hekmatyar, Chief of Hezb-e Eslami Afghanistan [HEA], here today, reports Afghan news agency.

According to HEA's officials, during the meeting, Benon Sevan insisted on his own formula which is totally rejected by the majority of mojahedin parties as well as the HEA. But, Mr. Golboddin advised Mr. Sevan to work on implementable and practicable ways, instead of insisting on UN plan which is impracticable. Engineer Hekmatyar presented his four-point formula to the UN envoy.

According to his plan all sides must accept in principle a formula to which the Najib government is replaced by an interim government comprising non-controversial figures acceptable to all sides is that truce should be announced across the country and elections are held [as published].

Meanwhile, Benon Sevan had a detailed meeting with the leaders of Shura-E Ittelaf (Shia mojahedin party) in Peshawar yesterday.

According to a spokesman of Shura. Ayatollah Taqaddusi, Shura-E- Ittelaf refused to hand over the list of his party's people to Mr. Sevan and said they were not given any guarantee that the Kable regime which is the killer of 1.5 million of our innocent people will not be represented directly or indirectly in this meeting.

Mr. Sevan who is desperatly trying to convince the mojahedin organisations to participate in a gathering some time in April was also confronted with a cool response from the leader of Jamiat-e-Eslami, Prof. Burhanuddin Rabbani, who met him in Islamabad on March 11.

Two other mojahedin leaders, Prof. Sayyaf and Mowlawi Khales of Ittehad-i-Islami and Hezb-e-Eslami have already rejected the formula of United Nations and described it as impracticable and a conspiracy against the Islamic Struggle of mojahedin.

Hekmatyar Criticizes Iran for Giving Aid to Kabul

BK1403132892 Karachi DAWN in English 14 Mar 92 p 5

[Text] Islamabad, March 13—Engineer Golboddin Hekmatyar, chief of Hezb-e Eslami, criticised here on Friday the Iranian government for providing the Kabul regime "crucial material assistance" which, in his opinion, was undermining the interest of 'jihad'.

Speaking at an 'iftar' [fast-breaking] reception, the Afghan Mojahedin leader said the Iran-based Mojahedin groups had already protested against the Iranian Government's action.

"Iran is also sending fuel to Kabul through Uzbekistan," Hekmatyar added.

He said he would soon launch his four-point "action plan" against the Kabul regime if his four-point peace plan was not accepted by the concerned parties.

Already, he said, the people in Kabul had launched agitation against the regime, and it would not be difficult for him, he added, to engineer a military coup against Najib, besiege Kabul or even mount a decisive attack on the Afghan capital, if necessary.

But, he said, he wanted to avoid bloodshed and that was why he had given his own peace formula. He thought that the UN formula would only extend the agony of the Afghan people.

He claimed that most of the Pakistani leaders he had talked to found his formula to be practicable, but they are yet to accept it formally".

He could not explain why he had announced his formula only after Pakistan had accepted the five-point UN peace plan and that too after nine long months of deliberations.

He was, however, adamant that Najibollah should first announce that he would give up power to a proposed interim government made up of non-controversial Afghans.

Criticising the UN formula, he said it did not ensure nor guarantee that Najib would hand over power to the interim government which, according to him, would come into being as a result of long- drawn exercise by the UN on the shape of organising a series of Afghan gatherings.

Explaining his formula in some details, Hekmatyar said after announcing his abdication in favour of the proposed interim government, Najibollah was welcome to give his list of non- controversial personalities for inclusion in the proposed interim government.

"We may in that event even name the same people as our joint candidates for the interim government," he added.

He made it very clear that the interim government under his formula would not be a coalition of various factions and parties but made up of only non-controversial personalities.

He admitted that he had received a number of emissaries from Najib with messages but hastened to add that these contacts could not be described as direct dialogue between the Mojahedin and Najibollah.

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Discusses Domestic Issues

LD2003153692 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0910 GMT 20 Mar 92

[New Year message to the nation by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Praise be to God and peace be upon the apostle of God and his companions. May this auspicious New Year bring happiness to our great nation, our honorable leader, and all those who are seeking prosperity by struggling in the path of justice. It is appropriate at this glorious moment of our lives to honor the memory of our late imam, the founder of the Islamic Republic, and the memory of our esteemed martyrs. May God give patience and rewards to the dear families of the prisoners of war and the missing, and to our valuable war disabled.

Happily, this year's New Year's Day is being celebrated by a greater number of people. Among us we can see some new Islamic countries which are celebrating the new year with us: Azerbaijan; Tajikistan; and a large number of people in Central Asia, in Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan; as well as our brothers in Turkey and Iraq. On the whole the new year is being celebrated more extensively this year.

Unfortunately, we can see clashes and conflict next door to us, where in Karabakh the two states of Azerbaijan and Armenia are on the threshold of a serious war. We are employing all our efforts to remove this danger and to extinguish the fire of this war before it spreads. There has been some preliminary success so far, but there is a need for greater cooperation of the people and the officials of these two countries. God willing, this will come about too, and we hope that the region will not face such a conflict in the future.

In these very exciting moments I deem it useful to brief our nation on the situation of the country and the revolution. The picture I am presenting is very brief—a summary—but I will try to portray the situation fully. This is a review of past achievements and a glance at future plans and prospects.

Despite certian weaknesses and difficulties, and despite certain pessimistic remarks, made for political gains by certain groups or by our enemies abroad, in my capacity as your trustee and the person in charge of the country's affairs, I believe our situation is very desirable and full of hope. The revolution has chosen the correct path; and the life we have planned is depicting a bright and hopeful future for us. I really feel that the plan, which some considered to be highly ambitious, is going ahead well. In some departments we are ahead of the plan, and in most places the plan is on schedule. We are behind schedule in a few places, which can be compensated for.

I would like to mention some major issues of the country. Politically, the country's situation is good, praise be to God. Inside the country we are enjoying unity, solidarity, and cooperation among the officials and the people. We witnessed a clear example of this in the unprecedented presence of our ummah at the 11 February rally. We expect to see a similar presence of the people at the ceremonies marking international Jerusalem Day on 27 March, which demonstrates the Islamic and global picture of our revolution. We hope to witness an extensive and glorious participation by our people in the Majles elections.

The people's presence at the ballot boxes and their extensive participation in the election is always a sign of their alertness, awareness, and interest in their country and system. We expect our people to take part wholeheartedly in the forthcoming election, and the authorities to provide the conditions to enable the people to cast their true votes. Whatever comes out of the ballot boxes is in the interests of the country, because it is the result of the people's specific wishes.

Our experience has shown that public opinion and collective conscience can determine the people's interests better than individuals. A Majles which is produced by the free and conscious vote of the people can always be a facilitating body, as it has been in the past. Since the first term of the Majles, we have seen that the Majles has always been in the service of the revolution, alongside the imam; it supported the war and the government, and has always been at the service of the people in order to solve their problems.

On the world scene, the status of the revolution is very good in comparison to the past. The goal of the revolution is about to be attained. We are taking steps to advance the revolution. We are winning the hearts of freedom-loving, justice-seeking, and free people. At the same time, we are angering the hard and spiteful hearts of the arrogant. That is natural. Our progress in winning hearts angers arrogance. You have recently seen examples of this in the excuses America has been making on regional issues. You saw a clear example of our winning the people's hearts in the Iranian delegation's trip to Africa, which could not be matched by any trip by delegations of other countries. There are many more such examples.

Our success on UN Security Council Resolution 598 is another clear achievement for us. After so many years, we eventually succeeded in proving that we were innocent and that the Iraqis were the aggressors. Those who condemned us for 10 years, in their words or writings, have confessed to their sins and repented. Today our enemies in the world are acknowledging that we were right.

You are witness to the fact that we have a serious international presence—both in the region and throughout the world.

As to the implementation of the plan, thank God, cultural and social issues are fully on course. You can see that our country is fast driving toward a science-based system. Education is taken seriously. There are more than 15 million secondary school students, 2 to 3 million newcomers to literacy courses throughout the country, and more than 700,000 undergraduates in the country's universities. That is unprecedented—400,000 undergraduates at state universities and 300,000 at nongovernmental ones. [passage omitted]

We are, meanwhile, making many efforts in the field of welfare. We have increased the level of subsidies because of the country's special economic position. Serious attention is being paid to the deprived regions. They are fast going to acquire what they lack. We have set up a ministry to strengthen cooperatives. We have increased allocation of funds to the relief committee. We have strengthened relief bodies. It is our policy to solve the welfare problems of the society's vulnerable class as we move through the adjustment period.

Thanks be to God that in the economic field, which was our weak point because of the conditions of revolution and the period of war, the plan is being implemened quite well. We are carrying out the country's reconstruction rapidly. Last year more than 350 billion rials were spent on reconstruction. Very large sums were also spent on repairing damages due to earthquake and floods. We will continue these efforts in future with even more funds, though the need of these regions exceed our resources. We will do everything we can.

For the first time our country has adopted a serious stance on infrastructure issues. Grand and interesting plans are under way with suitable speed. Gas pipelines are being rapidly extended to all parts of the country. Our major petrochemical projects are being implemented in Bandar-e Imam, Arak, Esfahan, and Tabriz. Some of them will reach the production phase next year. Oil exploration and production, which had been stopped for years [as heard], are now making progress at a good pace. There has been good technical progress. We have great projects on hand in refineries and great centers of the oil industry which swallow high budgets.

More than 20 projects on major dams are under way to harness water. Meanwhile, studies are in progress on more than 100 dams, large and small. We have made unprecendented investments in energy output. As a result, we hope we will no longer have power cuts next year and the year after. Power stations are fast coming into operation to feed the national grid.

We are ahead of the plan in almost all parts of the agricultural sector—in production of wheat, barley, fodder, rice, tea, sugar beet, cotton, and sugar cane. [passage omitted]

In industry, heavy as well as light, we are in quite a desirable position. In heavy industry, the production of heavy industrial machinery; vehicles—trucks, buses, minibuses, sedans, pickup vans—pumps; bulldozers; and loaders, in all these we have had an extremely good level of production this year. Most of them have had a growth of 100 percent, or nearly 100 percent, and are improving. Thank God their quality also is being improved.

In light industry, you yourselves see in shops and exhibitions that almost all industries are working at a desirable capacity. At the moment the issue is that of quality improvement and standardization. The exhibitions we have had at home and abroad have depicted unbelievable scenes for visitors. Sometimes it was thought that our industries have become rundown and are not capable of being renovated. Thank God you are seeing them grow. We hope that they make progress toward exporting and self-sufficiency in the next few years.

In the mining sector, our active mines have doubled this year. Steel production has more than doubled. Copper and aluminum production has passed the self-sufficiency stage and reached the export stage. Next year some very grand plans reach the commissioning stage which will affect the country's status.

In the housing sector, great strides have been made toward making land available. Land for housing has begun to be offered. Building material production and the supply of housing requirements are given priority.

In the roads and railways sector, many important tasks have been achieved. We are preparing to make use of heavy trains. Up to now trains had eight, 10, or 12 railcars. With the reconstruction of the railway lines and stations, trains with 50, 60, or more cars can be used on our lines. Many highways are being constructed and we are trying to connect our railway from Sarakhs to the Central Asian railway, so that we can have a railway connection extending to the Far East. This is a great development in the state's regional transport.

We have obtained ships and planes for sea and air transport and this is making relatively good progress.

We have spent a great deal on rural roads and we believe that there is a need for expansion of rural roads as part of the infrastructure of the state and the real growth of its resources. This is a priority.

In the communications sector a tremendous number of telephone lines have been allocated. In the coming years you will see saturation of demand for communications in the market, whether for telephone or fax. We have expanded the postal system tremendously and investment in this sector is almost three times the planned amount, because it is not public. It is public, but it is not in the budget; it uses its own resources.

Our military industries have, thank God, made very good progress. As you know, our enemies are showing anger at what they see of our preparations for our defense.

In the education and research, and health and treatment sectors, great steps have been taken in both ministries. [passage omitted]

Economic indices on the whole are showing a very favorable situation. All the pointers indicate reform and improvement. Inflation has been seriously harnessed. Although certain goods are dear, they are in check and not out of control. The budget deficit in 1987-88, which was over 51 percent of the total budget—although the budget was limited at that time—is less that 6 percent this year, although our budget for this year is 30 trillion rials.

Budget expenditures for development, which always took a back seat to current affairs in the past, has now acquired favorable status. Cash in circulation is completely under control. Although it is growing, it does so in proportion to the requirements of economic development. Income distribution, which was not favorable to the oppressed and weak class in the war years and increased the savings of hoarders, is being reformed in the new policies, and income distribution is taking on a more favorable form.

In the commercial sector, our exports have increased more than twofold. You can see the exhibitions that have been opened in the country every day, and the scope that has been provided for proper commerce. Of course there is some misappropriation which we will, God willing, curb. The provision of essential goods for the people, which is a major task in the commercial sector, is being carried out in an orderly and organized manner. [passage omitted]

For providing budget revenues, taxation has taken a very favorable form this year. Taxation has gone a long way this year to provide revenues. Through economic reform a portion of the foreign exchange, which was needlessly wasted in the past, is now at a better rate and has to a great extent brought liquidity under control and has also provided for development budgets.

Fortunately, the judicial system has worked efficiently this year. Cases have been investigated faster and the judicial matters in the country are in better, hopeful form.

Security issues are dealt with most seriously. Praise be to God, the fight against narcotics, lack of security, and bandits is progressing well, as you can see from the results. Improvements in towns and cities, which we completely neglected during the war, are undertaken seriously, with the people's assistance. About 500 cities are currently under reconstruction in the country. There has been high investment in sewage systems and drinking water supplies to serve the people.

I have presented you with part of the picture. I am not able to explain everything in a New Year message. I hope the mass media will expand on the points; their explanations will strengthen our nation on the path it has chosen. I hope, God willing, that the effects of the pessimistic remarks which sometime create disillusionment in the people's hearts will disappear and our people will become active in continuation of their revolution, with more hope, more seriousness, more determination, and greater joy.

We hope to be able to reach the fundamental objectives of the revolution set by our imam, under the banner of guidance of our great leader, the illustrious cleric and the highly valued jurisconsult, whom I regard as a divine gift to our country at this historic juncture. I expect our dear nation to remain on the scene, full of hope and inspiring hope in others. I expect the producers to strive harder so as to meet the requirements of our people, now that the government is placing more resources at their disposal. I expect the merchants and traders to be fair to the people and to remove the people's anxiety. I expect state employees to perform the task, assigned to them by the nation, with sincerity and commitment. I call upon all the people to receive inspiration from the sacred days of the holy month of Ramadan and prepare themselves for a moral, healthy, and prosperous society. May God make us generous enough to attract our opponents and indifferent individuals.

We call upon those who have regrettably sought refuge abroad as a result of their own mistake to prepare themselves to return to their own nation's fold. Those who feel they cannot return can cooperate with their nation wherever they are. We do not wish to see those who can return separated from their families and far away from their homeland. Your nation does not bear a grudge against you; it regards you as its own sister, brother, or child; the same as in the past. God willing, our entire nation will succeedd in coming through this difficult period of reconstruction and moderation to reach the goals of the revolution, united behind the leader. May we seriously tackle the dangers which threaten our society and our revolution; and may we we realize that any danger can be removed through unity, cooperation, friendship, and presence on the scene. This revolution has reached a point where it cannot be intimidated easily. May you all be successful, victorious, and prosperous, God willing. May God's peace and mercy be upon you all.

'Ali Yazdi Delivers Friday Prayers Sermon

LD2003163992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1130 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Second Friday prayers sermon delivered by Ayatollah Mohammad 'Ali Yazdi, head of the Judiciary Branch, at Khomeyni's tomb near Tehran on 20 March—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Jerusalem Day is one of the most important legacies of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, may he be admitted to God's paradise. [crowd chants]

He said that until the overthrow of the Saddam regime [as heard], all Muslims must honor the last Friday of the month of Ramadan as Jerusalem Day; on that day they must also move against the enemies of Islam, especially Israel and the Zionists.

In order to maintain unity in the world of Islam, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the honorable leader, [crowd chants] may God extend his noble presence, has designated next Friday, 27 March, as Jerusalem Day, so that Muslims across the globe can hold their gatherings in the month of Ramadan. As you are aware, in many Islamic and non-Islamic countries—wherever there are Muslims—there have been announcements that they will honor that day. The people of our country will surely honor the advice from their late imam, as they have honored the rest of his guidelines. With their presence in the marches and by gathering at the Friday prayers sites, they will shout slogans against the enemies of Islam—America and Israel—in order to strengthen the morale of the Palestinian combatants. Let the Palestinian youth know that they are not alone and that the Islamic world is with them. The Palestinian movement concerns the entire world of Islam. [crowd chants]

I want to be brief—I have one or two other issues to talk about. The elections are very important and vital to the future of the nation. The constant advice from the late imam, may he be admitted to God's paradise, that everyone should participate in the elections and that the fate of the nation depends on the elections is, fortunately, being adhered to by all those who have announced their intention to run as candidates for the Majles. [passage omitted]

We have all heard about the recent move by the Turkish judiciary. Turkey intercepted one of our ships; the ship belonged to another country, but it was on loan to us, and the cargo was ours. Then slowly, slowly... [pauses] We thought: Well, it is going to be sorted out today or tomorrow. Mr. Ozal came here, and in his meeting with esteemed President Hashemi-Rafsanjani he said: It will be all right, I will sort it out. Their prime minister came and said: I will sort it out, it is not a problem. Then suddenly we see that the Turkish judicial system has issued a decree to confiscate our vessel after its seizure. As the official responsible for the judicial system of the Islamic Republic of Iran, I say to the high-ranking judicial officials of Turkey: This act is in violation of international law. I have nothing to do with political, state, or diplomatic issues—it is natural that I should look at the issue as a judicial official of the country. If the Turkish judicial officials do not reconsider this issue and do not change their ruling accordingly, it is quite natural that the judicial system of the Islamic Republic of Iran should enter the scene and—abiding by international laws and regulations of course—carry out its duties. I do not think that will be a good situation for you. I want you to act quickly and solve this issue in its judicial form, not in a political form. [crowd chants]

My second subject is this: There is a report by the Human Rights Commission. I will not go into a long discussion, and there is no time for discussion, but because of my responsibility I invite you to look at the nature of the vote. They cast 22 votes for, 13 votes against, with 15 abstentions regarding the Islamic Republic of Iran. In many regulations governing voting, an abstention is put at the same level as a no vote. This means that if we add 13 abstentions... [pauses] 13 votes against and 15 abstentions together make 28 votes. That means 28 votes, states voting, were in reality against the report, and 22 for. There were four absent. Now we will not bother with the absentees' votes. Maybe if they had been present, they would have voted against. With 22 votes they have approved a preliminary report by the UN secretary general's special envoy. I tell you that, because of the nature of the vote, definitely the voting and approval were undertaken under the pressure of arrogant powers. We claim that in our country—I referred to this in a former session—the principles of our laws are the most progressive of laws that observe human rights. The allegations in years past—circulated in reports on behalf of the hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq] on behalf of the enemies, who used to have more access to some of the mass media, and that cast blame on our country—are all wrong and lies.

The International Red Cross was here. The team visited our prisons and inspected our programs. Unfortunately—I have already announced this, and announce it here once again—some of them went beyond the bounds of their duties and embarked on other undertakings. We officially informed the government that the International Red Cross must change the team in its Tehran office because of their incompetence and bring in a competent team. This is no place for corruption. There is no place for deviation, for spying. If you have come as a sacrosanct Red Cross employee to find out what goes on, and as you yourselves say, consider human rights, why do you go after other objectives? Because it was proven to us and had become clear to us, we demanded that they should go and a competent team replace them. No, this report was approved under political pressure.

I tell you, because of my responsibility, I call on the committee—on the committee members—not to mix legal issues with political ones, as we have said many times. The rights of human beings have a far greater value. Why do you do your legal work in a political manner and give it a political hue? Because America wants it; because, for example, those with the right of veto want it. Find out what is right and then implement it. Why do you not pay attention to what happens in various other corners of the world? So many Burmese Muslim refugees—their situation is really moving. What sort of world is this? More than 40,000—I don't know, maybe more—Muslims in such a tragic state that the Bangladeshi prime minister officially calls on international organizations to help in their management and support. Well, as you have heard, the Islamic Republic's initial aid has already arrived, and it has given and will give other aid. These people are completely ignored; they do not have human rights.

The crimes that the Zionists are perpetrating every day against our struggling Palestinian youth in the occupied territories in no way contravene human rights. There are many more transgressions by others, but I do not have time to name them, nor do I wish to do so in some cases. These do not contravene human rights at all. A few years ago, however, a hypocrite wrote something in a report, you put it in a new report, and then said this and that. What is this?

The legal credibility of this report, in our eyes, is very low; the report was prepared under political pressure. At least refer to our methods, what we have announced—and I announced last week also. At least look at the international civil and political covenant which we sent to the United Nations in a most detailed report, and at least study Iran's legal status according to official documents before you speak. This was one issue. I must say that the report, especially considering the nature of the vote, does not have much relevance.

I set aside my other subjects because of lack of time, but I do not know whether I should say another sentence or not.

I do not know when the U.S. leaders' attitude will reform. Are you the owners of the world? Are you the world's master? What is all this interception [rahgiri]? What are these plans you propose? What business is it of yours? Why should the free waters of the world come under your control? Why should comings and goings come under your control? What are you to the world? Are there no rules and regulations for the world? Are there no international laws? Are there no international organizations? Are there no laws for maritime travel? Why should the law not be applied? Just because you have come here and established a greater presence—with your bullying attitude, intercepting and doing this or that. I truly call on American leaders to mend their attitude somewhat, to think more in human terms. You always look at interests in terms of domination and arrogance and then make decisions. Come, accept the world. The rest are humans too. There are other states as well. They have their activities, commerce, exchanges. There are laws for the sea. There are laws for space. There are states' internal laws. Why do you not observe the law, instead of claiming the right of interception in free waters, even in our waters, with your wayward attitude.

We hope that... [pauses] I do not know why they do not put this into practice. History has shown that the world will teach those who are are not prepared to observe issues of etiquette [masa'el-e tarbiyati]. [passage omitted]

Meshkini Hails Buenos Aires Embassy Bombing

LD2003211192

[Editorial Report] Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian at 1405 GMT on 20 March broadcasts a 37-minute recording of Ayatollah 'Ali Akbar Meshkini's Friday prayers sermons in Qom on 20 March. Meshkini, Qom's Friday imam and the chairman of the Assembly of Experts, begins his first sermon by congratulating the nation on the new Iranian year, 1371, and on the anniversary of the birth of the second imam. He devotes the remainder of this sermon to praying for oppressed Muslims around the world.

In his second sermon, Meskhini looks back at this year's events, dividing them into positive and negative ones.

The positive events he describes as: 1) The United Nations' recognition of Iraq as the aggressor in the Iran-Iraq war. 2) The successful performance of the hajj and disavowal of infidels ceremony in Mecca. 3) Propagation of Islam around the world. 4) The success achieved by the Afghan mojahedin against Najibollah's regime. 5) The bombing of the Israeli embassy in Argentina (he mistakenly calls it Chile) in retaliation for the assassination of Lebanese Hizballah leader 'Abbas al-Musawi. On this issue he says the following:

"Another point to mention concerns the victories of the oppressed Palestinians in various places during the past few days. They bombed the Israeli embassy in Chile [as

heard]—which is situated in the farthest corner of South America, a very vast land—killing at least 24 and injuring nearly 223 people. The gist of the matter is that the gentleman responsible for that action—to whom I take my hat off, since there are times when one person becomes a source of pride to an entire nation—said that this was tantamount to the bomb which killed the late Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi. This was a retaliatory action, and it is still not enough; there will be more. [crowd chants "God is great," "Death to Israel," "Death to America"]

"And there was also the Palestinian—a brave Muslim Palestinian youth, who was raised on Islamic principles and tenets—who injured 20 people and killed two, becoming a martyr in the process, hence departing to heaven.

"I have to stress a point to the brothers and sisters: Gentlemen! Islam is against terrorism. Islam is against sabotage. It is against the destruction of homes, lives, gardens, etc. But if some people's logic causes them to ride in an aircraft and violate another country in a bombing raid; when a person throws a bomb on a number of innocent and defenseless people, killing them—infringing international law—and then returns home, then it appears that this person believes in no logic other than force. He believes in no logic other than bombs or guns. The logic of force should be answered with force."

Meshkini adds: "Israel does not understand reason; and even America, which is mightier than Israel, does not understand reason. Logic, talk, sitting at the negotiating table, and human rights have all become playthings in their hands, which they use to serve their interests. What they believe in is not logic, it is force. We believed from the start, and we still believe, that the only way the Palestinians, the non-Palestininans, the Algerians, the world's Hezbollahis, can attain their goal is through armed struggle. They have to fight with arms and go forward. We hope that soon Israel will comprehend that it will not be able to live among a number of Muslim opponents—a few million of them."

Meshkini then goes on to list the negative events of the last year as: 1) The massacre of Iraqi Shiites and Kurds at the hands of Saddam Husayn's regime. 2) The suppression of the Islamic Salvation Front's victory in Algeria. 3) The massacre of Muslims in Burma.

Meshkini ends his second sermon with advice to the nation to carry out their jobs conscientiously, and calls on women to observe the hejab.

Red Cross Activities Suspended, Staff Expelled

LD2103144392 Tehran IRNA in English 1424 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] Tehran, March 21, IRNA—Iran has suspended all activities of the Tehran-based bureau of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] as of today because of its "frequent violation of its limits of authorities and duties envisaged in the Geneva convention." Deputy Foreign Minister for International Affairs Manuchehr Motaki summoned the head of the ICRC's Tehran bureau to the Foreign Ministry today and informed him of Iran's decision to suspend its activities, according to a statement released by the Foreign Ministry. It said Motaki had also mentioned the "violations committed by the ICRC officers in contradiction with the normal expectations and the declared goals of the ICRC." The bureau staff were also given one week to leave the soil of the Islamic Republic.

Attack on Baghdad Embassy Personnel Protested

LD2103201892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] Following Friday's [20 March] attack by hypocrite [Mojahedin-e Khalq] agents in Baghdad on a car belonging to the embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the beating of two Iranian diplomats, the Iraqi charge d'affaires in Tehran was summoned to the Foreign Ministry on Saturday afternoon. Mr. Motaki, the deputy foreign minister for international affairs, handed him a strongly worded protest from the Islamic Republic of Iran in connection with the renewed violation of the Geneva convention on the safety of diplomats in that country.

The deputy foreign minister for international affairs told the Iraqi charge d'affaires in Tehran that the hypocrites had renewed their attacks on Iranian diplomats in Baghdad, because they were not afraid of the Iraqi Government following up on such acts. He called on the government of that country to take serious measures to defend the security of Iranian diplomats and to pursue the perpetrators of the attack.

UN Human Rights Envoy Galindo Pohl Assailed

NC1703095692 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 8 Mar 92 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "Stop Being So Lenient With the West"]

[Excerpts] We have heard this adage many times: "Once bitten, twice shy." But it seems to have lost its meaning as far as our action regarding the West's interpretation of human rights is concerned. This is the third time the Islamic Republic of Iran has permitted Galindo Pohl, the UN Human Rights Commission's special envoy, to visit Iran, and each time his pre-written report is disseminated, which results in vilification of the Islamic Republic of Iran. But we continue to remain indifferent.

This time Pohl's pre-written report sparked a new round of poisonous propaganda against Iran. The UN Human Rights Commission once again denounced Iran on the basis of this report, and the United States gloated over this propaganda onslaught and strove to project itself as the winner in this despicable game.

The assistant U.S. secretary of state made some remarks in this regard, which those Iranian officials who have viewed Pohl's visits with optimism should ponder. The U.S. assistant secretary of state made these remarks because he felt that the dissemination of such a biased report would prevent Pohl from visiting Iran again, and said: "If Iran does not agree to permit Galindo Pohl to visit Iran again, he can still prepare a report against Iran."

While confirming the U.S. role in the compilation of this report, he added: "It is not necessary to visit Iran in order to prepare a comprehensive report or to meet people locally. Galindo Pohl can interview Iranians abroad and prepare a similar report." [passage omitted]

Our people have the right to question the reason behind the optimism of our officials who justify his visits to Iran. Why do our ministries defend the continuation of these harmful visits?

Do these defenders have any justification today? Is it not necessary that the truth be explained to the people, so the true nature of the Human Rights Commission's analysis can be revealed, and officials can acknowledge that the optimism was a mistake that will not be repeated?

In this regard, the ministries should issue a clarification on their approach toward countries which have spoken against Iran in order to please the United States. Economic levers can be useful in this regard, and can prove a strong instrument for forging more satisfactory relations with those who do not take orders from the United States regarding their relations with Iran. [passage omitted]

As long as we stand up to the brutal hegemony of the United States and reject Washington's abhorrent blackmail, we should expect furious growls from the United States and its lackeys. But as soon as we feel that if we display the slightest leniency toward the West the latter will reciprocate in the same manner, we will have committed our first serious blunder, which will initiate a chain reaction of similar blunders.

The obvious intent of Washington echelons is that regardless of whether the special UN Human Rights Commission envoy comes to Iran, Iran should still be condemned. The question that arises is: Why should we ourselves add the stamp of approval to remarks directed against us by permitting Galindo Pohl to repeatedly visit Iran? This will only generate the impression among some that these accusations are true.

The execution of drug smugglers and merchants of death have occupied the minds of human rights officials. When they have no other excuse for blaming Iran, they consider the punishment of the merchants of death as the Iranian system's greatest crime, and a special committee expresses concern over the increased number of death sentences handed down in Iran. [passage omitted]

Pohl's third report, and the view of the UN Human Rights Commission in this regard, made the third unsuccessful experiment by our officials who thought that leniency toward the West might change things.

Today, following these experiments, it is necessary that we put Iran's prestige and honor at the top of our priorities, so we do not repeat our past experiments. We should then be confident that the correct path is the clear path, which is to ignore both negative and positive propaganda by the powers of world arrogance, as has been beautifully exhorted in the Koran: "The Jews and Christians will not be happy with you unless you follow their policies." [Persian version of Koranic verse] And God forbid it should be so.